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Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	10/11 Russia kidnaps 2 nd nuclear plant official
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/russia-kidnaps-2nd-official-from-ukraine-nuclear-plant/
GIST	Russia has kidnapped another senior official at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Ukraine's state nuclear power company said Tuesday, as a continuing management battle raises the stakes at a facility where shelling has already prompted fears of a nuclear accident.

The company, Energoatom, said that Valeriy Martyniuk, a deputy director general for human resources, was taken Monday and was being held at an unknown location. The company said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app that it feared he could be forced to disclose information about Ukrainian personnel working at the plant.

Martyniuk is the second top official at the plant to be kidnapped in recent days following the abduction in late September of the director-general, Ihor Murashov. He was released days later.

Last week, President Vladimir Putin of Russia said in the wake of his widely rejected annexation of the Zaporizhzhia region that he was nationalizing and taking over operational control of the six-reactor facility. Ukraine instructed workers at the plant to continue to report to Energoatom.

Russian forces seized control of the facility in March, stationing troops and weapons there and putting pressure on the Ukrainian engineers and workers who stayed on to operate it. Several workers have been detained and interrogated, and Ukrainian authorities have said that at least one was killed.

The United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, has rejected Moscow's claim of control. It also says that one essential prerequisite of nuclear safety is stable management and the ability of staff to be able to do their jobs without undue pressure.

The agency said that its director-general, Rafael Mariano Grossi, met Putin on Tuesday as part of efforts to prevent a nuclear accident at the plant and stressed the need for a safety and security zone around the plant.

Grossi, who last week met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, said that the situation had become "increasingly dangerous, precarious and challenging, with frequent military attacks that can also threaten nuclear safety."

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HEADLINE	10/11 Snohomish Co. first flu death since 2020
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/snohomish-county-reports-first-flu-death-since-2020/
GIST	<p>Snohomish County on Tuesday reported its first influenza death since 2020, after the past two years brought relatively mild flu seasons to the region.</p> <p>"Unfortunately, this is likely to be the first of more cases to come," said county health officer Dr. James Lewis in a statement. "In the southern hemisphere of the world, who have their flu season during our summer, we saw a resurgence of flu infections. We are likely to see the same here."</p> <p>Because mitigation efforts like masking, social distancing and hand washing have become more common since the pandemic began, Lewis said cases of other respiratory illnesses, like influenza, have remained fairly low.</p> <p>No information about the person who died was immediately available.</p> <p>While the county didn't record any flu deaths in 2020 or 2021, there were 11 in the 2019-2020 season, 26 in the 2018-2019 season and 40 in the 2017-2018 season, according to the county's influenza surveillance report.</p> <p>In Washington state, there were 21 flu deaths last season and 16 flu-like illness outbreaks in long-term-care facilities, according to state data. While flu activity was generally low, the state saw an "unusual" late spring wave at the tail end of the season, the state Department of Health said Tuesday.</p> <p>Now that many adults have returned to in-person work and most kids are back in school, state health officials say there's a possibility flu season could be worse this year and encouraged residents to get their flu and COVID booster shots as soon as possible.</p>

	<p>“Flu can be unpredictable and sometimes severe,” state chief science officer Dr. Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett said in a statement. “To protect your families health, getting vaccinated against influenza with a flu shot or nasal spray vaccine should be part of the fall routine for everyone 6 months and older.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/12 Mortgage interest rates highest since 2006
SOURCE	https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/us-mortgage-interest-rates-rise-highest-level-since-2006-2022-10-12/
GIST	<p>Oct 12 (Reuters) - The average interest rate on the most popular U.S. home loan rose to its highest level since 2006 as the housing sector continued to bear the brunt of tightening financial conditions, data from the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) showed on Wednesday.</p> <p>Mortgage rates have more than doubled since the beginning of the year as the Federal Reserve pursues an aggressive path of interest rate hikes to bring down stubbornly high inflation.</p> <p>Those actions, designed to cool the economy sufficiently to curb price pressures, have weighed heavily on the interest-rate-sensitive housing sector as expectations for Fed tightening have led to a surge in Treasury yields. The yield on the 10-year note acts as a benchmark for mortgage rates.</p> <p>The average contract rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose by 6 basis points to 6.81% for the week ended Oct. 7 while the MBA's Market Composite Index, a measure of mortgage loan application volume, fell 2.0% from a week earlier and is down roughly 69% from one year ago.</p> <p>Its Purchase Index, a measure of all mortgage loan applications for purchase of a single family home, fell 2.1% from the prior week and is 39% lower than a year ago, while MBA's refinance Index declined 1.8% last week and is down 86% from one year ago.</p> <p>Homebuilding and sales have weakened significantly in recent months, with home resales posting seven straight months of declines. However, home prices remain high even as house price growth slows, eroding affordability for buyers who are still competing due to a shortage of properties for sale.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/12 Africa 'on its own' during pandemics
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/health-africa-sudan-pandemics-middle-east-79b81cd92faa843e255b9c81a774d698
GIST	<p>KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Africa must plan to respond effectively to disease outbreaks without international help, a top public health official said Wednesday, warning that the continent of 1.3 billion people is “on its own” during pandemics.</p> <p>As assistance often never materializes, African nations must plug gaps in their response to outbreaks as such as Ebola in Uganda, said Ahmed Ogwell, acting head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>“This is not the first outbreak of the Sudan strain of Ebola virus here in Africa and particularly here in Uganda,” he said. “We, unfortunately, at this time do not have rapid diagnostics for this particular strain. Neither do we have the vaccines for it.”</p> <p>Ogwell spoke in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, where African public health officials and others are meeting to plan cross-border cooperation in responding to Ebola.</p> <p>Uganda declared an outbreak of Ebola on Sept. 20.</p> <p>Africa’s 54 countries have not received adequate international support in recent health crises, according to experts. Countries had difficulty getting COVID-19 vaccines.</p>

Ogwell lamented [the failure of the international community](#) to help African countries improve their capacity to test for monkeypox and control its spread. He said no help has come to Africa, where more monkeypox deaths have been reported this year than anywhere in the world.

“Recently, during the pandemic, when we saw the number of monkeypox cases growing here in Africa, we issued a global alert but no help came to Africa,” he said. “In fact, today, as we see the tail end of the pandemic, there’s still no help coming to Africa for monkeypox. This means that we need to check the reality that is with us, and the reality for us is that when a public health crisis is big, like the pandemic, Africa is on its own.”

The epicenter of Uganda’s Ebola outbreak is a rural community in central Uganda where health workers were not quick to detect the contagious disease that manifests as a viral hemorrhagic fever.

Although Ebola began spreading in August, officials initially described a “strange illness” killing people. Ebola now has infected 54 people and killed at least 19, including four health workers. One of its victims is a man who sought treatment in a hospital in Kampala and died there.

Ebola can be difficult to detect at first because fever is also a symptom of malaria. Ebola is spread through contact with bodily fluids of an infected person or contaminated materials. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain and at times internal and external bleeding.

There is no proven vaccine for the Sudan strain of Ebola. But plans are underway to test a possible vaccine in a small group of Ugandans who had contact with Ebola patients.

Because Ebola is “a priority disease” for Africa, “the absence of rapid diagnostics and the absence of a vaccine means we have a gap in how we prioritize our diseases and the tools we need to respond to them,” according to Ogwell.

“As Africa, we must now do things differently, appreciating that for the most time we will be on our own. Knowing that we are on our own, though, needs to motivate us so that we can do things on our own but not alone,” he said. “We must plan, prepare and respond effectively using our own resources, including our experts and institutions, and we must produce the health products we have identified as a priority for this continent.”

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HEADLINE	10/12 Ukraine nuclear plant loses external power
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-kyiv-business-crimea-e06ff29cd9b834c8dd607f977a1a0288?utm_source=homepage&utm_medium=TopNews&utm_campaign=position_01
GIST	<p>KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine’s biggest nuclear plant, which is surrounded by Russian troops, has lost all external power needed for vital safety systems for the second time in five days, the head of the U.N.’s nuclear watchdog said Wednesday, calling it a “deeply worrying development.”</p> <p>The warning from International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Grossi came amid a flurry of developments in Russia’s war in Ukraine. Ukraine’s military command said its forces recaptured five settlements in the southern Kherson region, and Russia’s main domestic security agency said eight people had been arrested in connection with the weekend Crimea bridge blast.</p> <p>Grossi, who met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday, said IAEA monitors at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant — Europe’s largest nuclear power facility — reported the interruption in external power, and said backup diesel generators were keeping nuclear safety and security equipment operational.</p> <p>“This repeated loss of #ZNPP’s off-site power is a deeply worrying development and it underlines the urgent need for a nuclear safety & security protection zone around the site,” Grossi tweeted.</p>

Ukraine's state nuclear operator Energoatom said on the Telegram social media platform that a Russian missile attack on the substation "Dniprovsk" in the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region to the north was damaged, leading to the shutdown of a key communication line to the plant — prompting the diesel generators to turn on automatically.

Last month, Energoatom chief Petro Kotin told The Associated Press in an interview that in general, the Zaporizhzhia plant had enough fuel to run the diesel generators for just 10 days. He said those generators were "the station's last defense before a radiation accident."

The growing concerns about the nuclear plant come amid an upsurge in fighting in southern Ukraine and a barrage of Russian strikes across the country in recent days.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office, said Russian shelling had left at least 14 people dead in the Zaporizhzhia region and the Donetsk region to the east over the last day. At least 34 people were injured in five regions, he wrote on Telegram.

Earlier Wednesday, Ukraine's southern command said its forces recaptured five settlements in the southern Kherson region, on the western fringe of an arc of Russian control of territory in eastern and southern Ukraine.

The villages of Novovasylivka, Novohryhorivka, Nova Kamianka, Tryfonivka and Chervone in the Beryslav district were retaken as of Oct. 11, according to the speaker of the southern command Vladislav Nazarov.

The settlements are in one of the four regions recently annexed by Russia, a move condemned as illegal under international law by many countries and the U.N. secretary-general.

Also Wednesday, Russia's top domestic security agency — the main successor to the KGB — said it arrested eight people on charges of involvement in the bombing of the main bridge linking Russia to Crimea, while an official in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia said Russian forces carried out more strikes there.

The Federal Security Service, known by the Russian acronym FSB, said it arrested five Russians and three citizens of Ukraine and Armenia over Saturday's attack that damaged the Kerch Bridge between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula — a crucial thoroughfare for supplies and travel whose much-ballyhooed construction after Russia's annexation of Crimea under Putin in 2014 cost billions.

A truck loaded with explosives blew up while driving across the bridge, killing four people and causing two sections of one of the two automobile links to collapse.

Ukrainian officials have lauded the explosion on the bridge, but stopped short of directly claiming responsibility for it.

The FSB alleged that the suspects were working on orders of Ukraine's military intelligence to secretly move the explosives into Russia and forge the accompanying documents.

It said the explosives were moved by sea from the Ukrainian port of Odesa to Bulgaria before being shipped to Georgia, driven to Armenia and then back to Georgia before being transported to Russia in a complex scheme to secretly deliver them to the target.

Putin alleged that Ukrainian special services masterminded the blast, calling it "an act of terrorism," and responded by ordering missile strikes across Ukraine.

Russia's onslaught continued in the Zaporizhzhia region and eponymous city on Wednesday, shattering windows and blowing out doors in residential buildings, municipal council secretary Anatoliy Kurtev said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties, though Kurtev warned locals of the possibility of a follow-up attack.

Zaporizhzhia, which sits fairly near the front line between Russian and Ukrainian forces, has been repeatedly struck with often deadly attacks in recent weeks. It is part of a larger region, including Europe's largest nuclear power plant now in Russian control, that Moscow has said it has annexed in violation of international law. The city itself remains in Ukrainian hands.

To the south, in a Russian-controlled area of the region, a powerful blast struck the city of Melitopol — sending a car flying into the air, mayor Ivan Fedorov said. There was no word on casualties.

The new clashes came two days after Russian forces began pummeling many parts of Ukraine with more missiles and munition-carrying drones, killing at least 19 people on Monday alone in an attack that the U.N. human rights office described as “particularly shocking” and amounting to potential war crimes.

Tuesday marked the second straight day when air raid sirens echoed throughout Ukraine, and officials advised residents to conserve energy and stock up on water. The strikes knocked out power across the country and pierced the relative calm that had returned to the capital, Kyiv, and many other cities far from the war's front lines.

“It brings anger, not fear,” Kyiv resident Volodymyr Vasylenko, 67, said as crews worked to restore traffic lights and clear debris from the capital's streets. “We already got used to this. And we will keep fighting.”

The leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers condemned the bombardment and said they would “stand firmly with Ukraine for as long as it takes.” Their pledge defied Russian warnings that Western assistance would prolong the war and the pain of Ukraine's people.

Zelenskyy told the G-7 leaders during a virtual meeting Russia fired more than 100 missiles and dozens of drones at Ukraine over two days. He appealed for “more modern and effective” air defense systems — even though he said Ukraine shot down many of the Russian projectiles.

The Pentagon on Tuesday announced plans to deliver the first two advanced NASAMs anti-aircraft systems to Ukraine in the coming weeks. The systems, which Kyiv has long wanted, will provide medium-to long-range defense against missile attacks.

In a phone call with Zelenskyy on Tuesday, President Joe Biden “pledged to continue providing Ukraine with the support needed to defend itself, including advanced air defense systems,” the White House said.

Ukraine's defense minister tweeted that four German IRIS-T air defense systems had just arrived, saying a “new era” of air defense for Ukraine had begun.

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HEADLINE	10/12 Belarus to enter war alongside Russia?
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/12/alexander-lukashenko-belarus-russia-ukraine-war-putin
GIST	<p>Alexander Lukashenko, the dictatorial leader of Belarus, has executed a careful balancing act during the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>On 24 February, Russian troops that had massed on Belarusian territory surged across the border into Ukraine, using his country as a staging ground in the largest invasion in Europe since the second world war.</p> <p>But the Belarusian leader has not joined the war directly or sent his own troops into the fight, at times saying that he felt the invasion was “dragging on”.</p>

Now, meetings between Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin have once again raised fears he is about to enter the fray. Lukashenko has said that Belarus and [Russia](#) are to deploy a joint military group and that thousands of Russian troops will be arriving in his country in the coming days for drills.

“We emphasise once again that the tasks of the regional force group are purely defensive. And all activities carried out at the moment are aimed at providing a sufficient response to actions near our borders,” the Belarusian defence minister, Viktor Khrenin, said in a statement on Tuesday.

The Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, sounded the alarm during a meeting of the G7 on Tuesday, proposing to send UN peacekeepers to the border between Ukraine and Belarus to prevent Lukashenko from launching a “provocation”.

Despite the warning signs, there is considerable doubt that Lukashenko is ready to throw his own forces into a war that Russia is losing in Ukraine, even if he is under pressure from Putin.

“Of course Putin has a lot of leverage. But he cannot compel Lukashenko to commit political suicide,” said Artyom Shraibman, a Belarusian political analyst and non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. “That is why I think Lukashenko will definitely try to resist any push into a full war.”

“On the other hand, I cannot bet that he will be successful in this for ever,” he continued. “There are ways that Russia can act that would provoke Belarus into the fighting.”

Short of sending troops his own troops into battle, Lukashenko could allow Russian troops to be deployed to Belarus’ borders in order to stretch Ukrainian defences or possibly allow Russia to use Belarus as a training ground for some of the tens of thousands of Russians mobilised to serve in the army.

According to the Belarusian Hajun Project, an activist monitoring group, the joint exercises may be held near several municipal buildings in the city of Yelsk, just 17km (10 miles) from the Ukrainian border.

The group reported that classes had been cancelled at a music school near a local police station and administrative building. Locals had also been told not to film a new column of armoured vehicles due to arrive on Wednesday, the organisation reported.

Konrad Muzyka, an independent defence analyst and the Director of Rochan Consulting, wrote that few organisations monitor the Belarusian military posture because their armed forces “are relatively weak, and apart from [Lukashenko’s] rhetoric, there’s nothing there”.

The army would have to mobilise 20,000 men in order to reach full strength, he wrote. And there would be ample time to give strategic warning if Belarus did begin to mobilise and move its troops toward the border.

Nonetheless, Belarus has been holding exercises at their highest rate since during the cold war, he wrote. “Minsk tested all capabilities as if it was preparing to go to war,” he wrote.

“There are three possible explanations behind this behaviour: 1) Prep for a Nato attack 2) To tie up Ukrainian forces near the border to prevent their deployment to other areas 3) Prep for an attack on Ukraine,” he said. For now, he wrote, he is focused on options two and three.

Videos have suggested that rather than Russia moving heavy weaponry to Belarus in preparation for an attack on Ukraine from there, the opposite is taking place: Belarus is sending tanks, ammunition and trucks from its own stores into Russia. The Belarusian Hajun Project published video of eight T-72A tanks being transported from Minsk toward Russia, and said that witnesses saw 15-30 tanks and at least 28 Ural trucks.

Franak Viačorka, senior adviser to Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, said he did not believe that Belarusian troops would take an active part in the war in Ukraine.

He said: “I doubt it greatly, we don’t have any leads to this. In fact to the contrary the military leaders are trying to calm down the troops saying they will not be embroiled in the war as the troops are very worried seeing the success of the Ukrainians. No one wants to fight for Putin.”

Viačorka said the Belarusian army did not have the capacity to fight in Ukraine.

He said: “We don’t have the troops or the military hardware. A lot of hardware has already been handed over to the Russian federation. All that could be put to use has already been put to use. There are few combat ready troops, up to 7k, and they are not ready for an assault operation.”

Yet the bigger questions may be political. Having survived a protest movement in 2020, Lukashenko will not want to risk his position further for a war that, according to unofficial polls, is extremely unpopular in Belarus.

“He does not want to be dragged into war because of so many risks it can create for him,” said Shraibman, noting that polling showed that less than 10% of Belarusians supported direct involvement in the war in Ukraine.

And with Russia now in retreat, joining the war could tie his fate to an invasion that will probably end in failure.

“Authoritarians are not very good at surviving military defeats,” he said.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Ireicho: list of Japanese incarcerated WWII
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/oct/11/japanese-americans-incarceration-second-world-war
GIST	<p>Kanji Sahara was eight when his family was uprooted from their home in Los Angeles. It was 1942 and the family, along with thousands of other people of Japanese descent, was forcibly sent to live in barracks and horse stables – and eventually, War Relocation Authority camps, where they stayed until the end of the second world war. He would later recall standing behind a fence, watching people across the street go about their day, wondering why life was normal for them but not for him.</p> <p>Sahara is now 88, and last month, he was among hundreds of people who visited the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’s Little Tokyo for the installation ceremony of a new exhibit dedicated to those who suffered a similar fate.</p> <p>The highlight of the exhibit is the Ireichō, a sacred book of names, a 25-pound, 1,000-page hand-bound book containing the names of the 125,284 people of Japanese descent – many of them American citizens – who were incarcerated in the United States during the second world war. Eighty years after the camps first opened, it’s the first comprehensive list of its kind.</p> <p>“It did feel good to see my name in there,” Sahara said. “It was proof that I was there, and that this happened to me.”</p> <p>The Ireichō project was led by Duncan Ryuken Williams, director of the University of Southern California’s Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture, and creative director Sunyoung Lee. Williams said he spent the past three years working with teams of volunteers across the country to undergo the painstaking process of researching, transcribing and verifying the names of those who were held at the 75 identified incarceration sites, including US army, Department of Justice, and War Relocation Authority camps. These sites opened in 1942 under President Franklin D Roosevelt, following Japan’s bombing of Pearl Harbor.</p>

“The project is about repairing the historical record,” Williams said. “Part of the work of repair is to honor those who were unjustly incarcerated, but it’s also simply to make sure that no one is left out.”

And Williams and his team made sure that no one’s name was left out of the book. “We think we’re close to 99.5% confident,” he said. Volunteers consulted various sources, including Densho, a non-profit that aims to preserve the history of Japanese Americans during the second world war; and other researchers who have done work over the years to collect the names of people at specific incarceration sites. When typos or hard-to-discern letters were spotted in the documents, the volunteers turned to birth certificates and draft cards.

As the first comprehensive list of the more than 125,000 Japanese individuals imprisoned during the second world war, the project also marks the first time it’s been possible to recognize each detainee as individuals, not just as part of the broader Japanese and Japanese American community.

Starting 11 October, visitors to the Japanese American National Museum will be encouraged to use a Japanese *hanko*, a stamp or seal, to place a mark next to a name in the book as a way to honor that person. Families are also welcomed to find and stamp the names of their loved ones. Williams said his goal is to have every name in the book acknowledged during the year that it’s on display.

During the installation ceremony on 25 September, Williams said he saw people’s shock over the massiveness of the book, which he expected – he’d envisioned the Ireichō as being “Gutenberg Bible-sized” – but he also noticed something unexpected.

“People’s hands were shaking, so many of them, as they were putting the stamps on the names,” he said. “For many people, this was about honoring a parent, a sibling, a favorite uncle, so you could feel how important it was for them to get the stamp to go to the right place.”

Kanji Sahara’s granddaughters were also present, and stamped their late grandmother’s name.

“I grew up learning about my family history and my grandpa was always open about what happened, but seeing this enormous book was a reminder of just how many families have similar stories as mine,” said Kristen Tang, one of Sahara’s granddaughters.

Williams said he was touched after seeing so many multigenerational families take part in stamping the book together, referring to it as “an opportunity for families to pass on this history, and to make the younger generations feel they’re connected to this history”. Non-Japanese Americans also attended the ceremony, including Indigenous elders from Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where one of the 10 WRA camps was held.

“Having non-Japanese American people also be involved, to me, is important,” Williams said. “Because in the end, it’s a broad American public we want to engage.”

The Ireichō is one of three monuments comprising a larger project called Irei: National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration, which addresses the erasure of the identities of those incarcerated. The other two are a [searchable, digital list](#) of the 125,284 names (Ireizō), and light sculpture monuments (Ireihī), which will be displayed at eight WRA camps starting in 2024. In addition to acknowledging all of the individuals who were incarcerated, Williams also hopes to test the limits of how people view monuments.

“Monuments in the traditional sense gain value from being permanent and static, or stable,” he said. “But with this book, the pages look different after people leave their mark on them. These encounters change the monument. They make the people themselves a part of the monument.”

Sahara, who was initially held at the Santa Anita Assembly Center, then transferred to WRA camps at Jerome and Rohwer, both in Arkansas, says he walked away from stamping the book feeling “gratified”.

	"I'm glad we have this," he said. "With a big book like this, people will have to know what happened. When we know what happened, we can make sure it won't ever happen again."
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HEADLINE	10/12 Solomon Islands police to China for training
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/12/first-solomon-islands-police-head-to-china-for-training-amid-deepening-security-ties
GIST	<p>A delegation of more than 30 Solomon Islands police officers has travelled to China to undergo training for the first time, in a sign of deepening ties between the two countries, which signed a controversial security deal earlier this year.</p> <p>The group of 34 officers, including a deputy and an assistant commissioner, will be in China for a month, during which time they will receive training, visit police stations and departments and learn from the expertise of Chinese police, according to a statement issued by Solomon Islands government.</p> <p>The officers would also gain a "better understanding of Chinese police, diversified Chinese cultures and friendly Chinese people", said Counsellor Yao Ming, the deputy head of mission at the Chinese embassy in Honiara, according to the statement.</p> <p>He emphasised that this was the first visit to China by police officers from Solomon Islands for training purposes and added that after their return, the officers would contribute to "better cooperation between RSIPF [Royal Solomon Islands Police Force] and Chinese police, and enhance the friendship between China and Solomon Islands", according to the statement.</p> <p>Australia has provided training to Solomon Islands police and been involved in assisting with security on the islands for decades. Last year, when riots rocked the capital of Honiara, prime minister Manasseh Sogavare requested the Australian government send defence personnel to help restore order.</p> <p>China has also been involved in police training and providing equipment to the RSIPF, but the government statement said that this would be the biggest RSIPF delegation to visit a foreign country for police training.</p> <p>Increased cooperation in policing is believed to be a key part of the security deal signed by the two countries earlier this year. The text of the deal has not been made public, but a draft was leaked online in March.</p> <p>The leaked draft outlined the broad conditions under which Solomon Islands could call on China to send in armed police and military personnel. The conditions included "to assist in maintaining social order, protecting people's lives and property, providing humanitarian assistance, carrying out disaster response, or providing assistance on other tasks agreed upon by the parties [to the agreement]".</p> <p>In April, Australia's spy chief said Canberra was concerned Chinese police sent to Solomon Islands could deploy "ruthless" techniques previously used to quell anti-government protests in Hong Kong.</p> <p>"In such a fragile, volatile country Chinese policing techniques and tactics that we've seen deployed so ruthlessly in Hong Kong, for example, are completely inconsistent with the Pacific way of resolving issues and could incite further instability and violence in the Solomon Islands," said Andrew Shearer, the director general of Australia's Office of National Intelligence.</p> <p>Opposition figures in Solomon Islands have previously raised grave concerns about the deepening of relationships between the police forces, saying they feared it could allow the prime minister to use Chinese armed police to quash democratic dissent and hold on to power.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Russia resumes bombardment strikes
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SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/russia-resumes-strikes-after-mass-bombardment-of-ukraine-11665478054?mod=hp_lead_pos6
GIST	<p>ODESSA, Ukraine—Russia launched another round of strikes across Ukraine on Tuesday, many of which Kyiv said it intercepted, as the death toll rose from the previous day's barrage, one of Moscow's broadest assaults in nearly eight months of war.</p> <p>Ukraine's air-defense systems shot down Russian missiles across the country Tuesday morning, though strikes in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region left at least one person dead, according to regional governors. Russian missiles and drones also hit Ukraine's electric grid for a second day, knocking out power in the city of Lviv and injuring six people at a power plant in the Vinnytsia region, according to local authorities.</p> <p>Monday's missile-and-drone bombardment shattered the sense of relative normalcy that had returned to much of central and western Ukraine in recent months after Russian forces withdrew from areas around the capital, Kyiv, and shifted the focus of its firepower to eastern Ukraine.</p> <p>Russian forces on Monday fired 84 missiles along with drones in a series of strikes that coincided with Ukraine's morning rush hour, raising fears it could mark a new phase of the Kremlin's assault centered on massive aerial bombardment. Ukraine said its air defenses intercepted roughly half of Monday's salvos, a number that couldn't be independently verified. The death toll from those attacks rose to 19, with 105 injured, Ukraine's emergency services said Tuesday.</p> <p>Since the start of the war, Kyiv's ability to prevent Russia from dominating the skies above Ukraine has been crucial to its fending off Moscow's advance. Ukraine's aerial defense is built on a patchwork of Soviet-era air-defense batteries bolstered by systems rushed to the battlefield by the U.S. and others in the early days of the invasion.</p> <p>Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke on Tuesday to an emergency meeting of the Group of Seven leaders of large world economies, who convened as a show of unity in support of Ukraine. He said the G-7 and "our entire democratic world...must respond symmetrically" to Moscow.</p> <p>"When Russia attacks the energy sector and energy stability of our countries, we must block its energy sector with sanctions, break the stability of Russian revenues from oil and gas trade," Mr. Zelensky told the virtual meeting.</p> <p>In a statement afterward, the G-7 leaders condemned the Russian attacks against Ukrainian civilians as a war crime and vowed to hold Mr. Putin and other Russian officials responsible for the strikes to account.</p> <p>The leaders also said they welcomed Mr. Zelensky's desire for a just peace, which they said should include protection of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, safeguarding its ability to defend itself in the future and ensuring the country's reconstruction, possibly using Russian funds to do so.</p> <p>President Biden pledged to provide more advanced air-defense systems in a call with Mr. Zelensky on Monday, and a senior French defense official said France is also looking at providing Ukraine with air-defense capabilities. The Pentagon has said the U.S. is sending two mobile air-defense systems known as Nasams to Ukraine within the next two months. Another six Nasams have been earmarked for Ukraine, but Pentagon and industry officials said it could take around 18 months or longer to finish and deliver them.</p> <p>Mr. Biden said Tuesday night in an interview with CNN that Mr. Putin is "a rational actor who has miscalculated significantly." Mr. Biden spoke about Mr. Putin's remarks after invading Ukraine, saying: "He talked about the whole idea of—he was needed to be the leader of Russia that united all of Russian speakers. I mean, it's just, I just think it's irrational."</p> <p>Mr. Biden said he did not think Mr. Putin would use a tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine, but he said: "I think it's irresponsible for him to talk about it."</p>

He wouldn't say what would be a red line for the U.S. with Russia. Asked about a possible off-ramp for Mr. Putin, Mr. Biden said: "He could just flat leave and still probably hold his position together in Russia."

Mr. Biden added that he will not negotiate with Russia on staying in Ukraine and said he believes Mr. Putin committed war crimes.

In Kyiv on Tuesday morning, Ukraine's air defenses shot down two incoming missiles, the regional governor said, among a total of 14 intercepted across the country. The city went into a partial lockdown amid government warnings of further planned attacks from Russia. As an air-raid siren continued throughout the morning, stores and cafes remained closed and there were few cars and pedestrians on the streets as most residents stayed home.

At the sites where two separate rocket attacks struck the city center Monday, a cleanup operation had begun. Workers were repairing a broken water pipe and residents cleared debris outside buildings that had shattered windows and walls pockmarked by shrapnel.

Russia fired 12 missiles toward Ukraine's southeast, hitting a car dealership and a school in the Zaporizhzhia region and killing at least one person, according to a social-media post from the area governor that included images of a burned-out building.

In Vinnytsia, central Ukraine, six people were injured when Russian drones struck the same power plant twice, with the second strike taking place after rescue workers had arrived, according to local authorities.

Along Ukraine's Black Sea coast, air defenses shot down eight Iranian-made drones early on Tuesday, the country's southern air command said. Explosions could be heard over the port city of Odessa in the predawn hours. Air defenses in western Ukraine shot down an Iranian-made drone sent by Russia, according to the region's governor.

Ukrainian leaders have accused Russia of launching the attacks as a campaign of terror intended to wear down Ukraine's civilian population after months in which Russian forces have lost ground to a lethal Ukrainian offensive. Kyiv's forces have reclaimed a swath of territory previously occupied by Russia since its invasion in February.

"The occupiers already cannot oppose us on the battlefield, that is why they resort to this terror," Mr. Zelensky said in a Monday night address, delivered from a blast site in central Kyiv. "Well, we'll make the battlefield even more excruciating for the enemy. And we will restore everything that was destroyed."

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov warned in an interview with state broadcaster Rossiya Segodnya of the danger to Western powers of "uncontrolled escalation" and "large-scale assistance to Kyiv."

"Russia will be forced to take adequate countermeasures, including those of an asymmetric nature," Mr. Ryabkov said.

Separately, Russia released 32 prisoners of war, the Ukrainian president's chief of staff Andriy Yermak said Tuesday. Among those freed were Ukrainian soldiers and officers who had been previously considered missing, he said. Russia also returned the body of an Israeli man, he said. Mr. Yermak didn't say what, if anything, Ukraine had given Russia in return.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the Russian TV news show 60 Minutes that he hoped "those who constantly speculate on the topic of nuclear war" and accuse Russia of preparing to use nuclear weapons "realize their responsibility."

Mr. Lavrov said Russian President Vladimir Putin had repeatedly said that Russia's nuclear doctrine provides for "exclusively retaliatory measures that are designed to prevent the destruction of the Russian Federation as a result of direct nuclear strikes or other types of weapons which threaten the very existence of the Russian state."

Mr. Putin said Monday's broad attack on Ukraine was in response to an attack on a strategic bridge connecting Russia to occupied Crimea, a part of Ukraine that Russia seized in 2014. Russian authorities blamed Ukraine for an explosion on the bridge on Saturday that crippled access to the Crimean Peninsula. Ukraine hasn't claimed responsibility for the bridge explosion, but senior Ukrainian officials celebrated it on social media.

Ukraine's emergency services warned people of a heightened risk of airstrikes in the coming days, in a message sent to cellphones on Tuesday. "Stay in the shelters for your safety," the message said.

Ukraine's state electrical provider said it was working to restore power, which was at least partially disrupted in more than half of Ukraine's regions on Monday due to the attacks.

Meanwhile, the governor of Russia's Belgorod region, bordering Ukraine, said on his Telegram channel Tuesday that Ukrainian fire damaged electrical transformers and caused outages for 2,000 people. Water service also suffered some interruptions, he wrote. Later, authorities said that electricity was being restored using backup power.

Also on Tuesday, Ukraine's state nuclear-power company accused Russia of kidnapping and torturing the deputy head of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear-power plant, which has been the subject of a long standoff since Russian forces seized it in March. The company, Energoatom, said that the official, Valerii Martyniuk, had been taken a day earlier and held in an unknown location. The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency last week warned that Russian pressure on staff at the plant had heightened safety concerns at the facility.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, met with Mr. Putin on Tuesday to stress the need to establish a safety and security protection zone around the plant, after meeting with Mr. Zelensky last week, the IAEA said.

Separately on Tuesday, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg urged Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko to stop what he called the country's complicity in Russia's assault on Ukraine. The comments came after Mr. Lukashenko said Monday that a large number of Russian troops would deploy in Belarus to respond to what he said was possible aggression against his country by Ukraine and NATO. Belarus has been Russia's closest ally in the war, allowing the use of its territory and airspace for the launch of attacks on Ukraine.

G-7 leaders also called on Mr. Lukashenko to "stop enabling the Russian war of aggression" by permitting Russian forces to use Belarusian territory and providing the Russian military with support.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Gas prices skyrocket amid tight oil supply
SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/3671219/gas-prices-skyrocket-as-tight-oil-supply-hits-wa/
GIST	<p>Gas prices continue to skyrocket in Washington state thanks to a tight supply of crude oil.</p> <p>Prices above \$5 a gallon nearing record highs The average cost for unleaded gas in Seattle is \$5.58 a gallon. We are pennies away from paying the most we ever have for gas. Here's why.</p> <p>According to AAA's Public Affairs Manager Kelly Just, OPEC doesn't effect Washington's supply. It tightens the world supply. That makes the market price go up.</p>

“For instance two weeks ago, crude was around \$76 a barrel, and as of Monday it’s around \$90,” Just said. “The fact that the price went up, it impacts us.”

Just told us Washington gets most of its crude oil from Canada, and a little from Russia and North Dakota. So supplies are already tight because that small amount that would come from Russia has stopped because of the war in Ukraine.

Refineries shut down production in autumn

On top of that, fall is when refineries do their maintenance work. September and October is when refineries shut down production. Then they switch over to their less expensive winter blend. This year, some refineries put off maintenance until after the summer driving season in hopes of preventing prices from going even higher.

“We don’t have as much oil being produced, right now,” Just explained. “When one of the Washington refineries went off-line last week, that immediately took our production to 70% from 100%.” She said when a refinery goes off-line, that causes a big dip in the supply.

Some may wonder if hurricane season affects the cost of gas in Washington as well.

“It shouldn’t because that is not where our fuel comes from,” Just said. “However, because we are geographically isolated, it’s more difficult to get supply to begin with.” Because of that, west coast prices tend to be higher.

Washington gas prices higher than most states

Our state has higher gas taxes than most. We always start off at a higher level. Just told us this is the normal time for prices to go up. Gas prices were already so high this year that when they rose again, it took us to levels we haven’t seen.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Recommendations of CHOP fallout review
SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/3671390/oig-panel-issues-dozens-recommendations-reviewing-chop-fallout/
GIST	<p>Seattle’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) – part of the city’s police oversight and accountability system – said the city’s response to the Capitol Hill Occupied Protest (CHOP) was marred by an extreme lack of communication both internally and with the public.</p> <p>That’s the overall finding in the 82-page report OIG released Tuesday as part of its Sentinel Event Review (SER) of the Seattle Police Department’s (SPD) response to the 2020 protests.</p> <p>This is the third of four reports looking at critical incidents during the protests. An SER panel that included representatives from the community and SPD heard from dozens of protesters, city staff, officers, and others during the months-long review of what they called the third wave of the protests.</p> <p>The so-called third wave includes four critical incidents between June 8 and July 1, starting with SPD’s evacuation of the East Precinct.</p> <p>Even after this review by the OIG panel and a previous Office of Police Accountability investigation, OIG says who actually made the decision to evacuate the East Precinct – which quickly led to the creation of CHOP – remains unclear.</p> <p>Both then-Mayor Jenny Durkan and then-SPD Chief Carmen Best insisted at the time it was not their decision. Neither took part in this review.</p> <p>What the review panel did find was that following a meeting between SPD and the Mayor’s office around noon on June 8 regarding changing strategies in an attempt to deescalate the situation with protesters, the</p>

Mayor's office directed SPD to remove the barricades surrounding the East Precinct in order to open the street and allow public passage by the building.

At the same time, an assistant SPD Chief ordered the temporary evacuation of the East Precinct, with officers expected to stage at nearby Volunteer Park while protesters gained access to the area that had previously been barricaded.

The concern given at the time was a cited FBI report about a "credible threat" of arson against the East Precinct. But many on the OIG review panel – as was true at the time – doubted the credibility of those unconfirmed threats and continue to doubt them today. This only increased the lack of trust between protesters, the community, the city, and SPD.

An addendum to the temporary evacuation plan in June 2020 showed a directive to remove officers, all weapons, and evidence from the precinct. The plan was for officers to return to the precinct the next day, but that did not happen.

Instead, once the CHOP perimeter was established and SPD leadership observed the East Precinct was not being destroyed, the decision was made to hold off re-occupying the precinct. According to an OPA interview with an SPD Assistant Chief, "reestablishing a police presence in the area would require significant planning." The CHOP existed for the next 23 days, the report states.

Many panelists remained highly skeptical about the FBI's unsubstantiated intelligence of a "credible threat" of plans to destroy the building. They noted that no specifics had been provided to support the statement. The use of a general, unsubstantiated threat increased the panelists' doubts about the integrity of the claim and the validity of the threat as a justification for evacuation of the precinct.

Despite the doubts about the threat's validity, the report said many panelists felt the decision to leave the precinct was inevitable and some felt it helped deescalate the situation.

However, both community members and SPD officers were dissatisfied with the way the Mayor's Office and SPD leadership communicated the decision.

Despite an investigation from OPA, the actual decision-making process between the city and SPD remains unclear. There is no known documentation of who participated in the meetings between the Mayor's Office and SPD on June 7 and 8, or who gave what instructions to whom.

The panel issued several recommendations related to the evacuation and abandonment of the East Precinct, which are listed below.

- **Recommendation 1:** SPD and the City of Seattle should ensure Seattle neighborhoods are not left without public safety and other essential services. If city government is prevented from accessing an area, it should make every effort to provide city services and emergency response. The city should assign a city liaison to facilitate communications with impacted community members about service provision or interruption.
- **Recommendation 2:** In the event of an evacuation of a government building or other emergency, strategic decision-making should be done at the highest level of government with accountability and transparency.
- **Recommendation 3:** SPD should improve internal channels of communication to increase efficient and timely collaborative decision making amongst command and with officers.
- **Recommendation 4:** SPD should ensure processes for transparency and accountability are in place in case of evacuation or other emergency. Ensure accurate logs are kept at the Seattle Police Operations Center (SPOC).
- **Recommendation 5:** SPD should ensure appropriate recordkeeping and documentation during significant planning and decisions during large-scale protests.
- **Recommendation 6:** SPD should conduct and publish an After-Action Review of actions taken during a large-scale protest response within 60 days of the incident, including publication of all non-confidential materials used in the review.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 7: SPD Incident Action Plans (IAPs) should follow a standardized approval process that includes review at the appropriate command level to allow for accountability of decision-making.²² SPD should communicate IAPs to all officers prior to the implementation of the acts set forth in the IAP. • Recommendation 8: SPD should ensure coordinated communication of goals, so the public has a clear understanding of SPD actions. • Recommendation 9: SPD and the Mayor’s Office should publicly communicate rationale for decision-making during large-scale protest response to decrease mistrust on the part of the public and officers. • Recommendation 10: SPD and the City of Seattle should include OIG in planning meetings to offer recommendations and to stay informed. • Recommendation 11: An SPD Public Information Officer should accompany the Incident Commander to important or large-scale events.
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HEADLINE	10/12 Baltic nations long warned about Russia
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/10/12/baltics-poland-russia-warnings-nato/
GIST	<p>RIGA, Latvia — Since the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Kyiv’s strongest allies against President Vladimir Putin have been the nations that know his Soviet playbook best: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, all invaded and brutalized by the Soviet Union and historically wary of Russia.</p> <p>Their warnings about Russian aggression and calls for stronger Western action to deter Putin were long brushed aside by many in Europe, even after Russia’s 2008 invasion of Georgia and the Kremlin’s 2014 invasion and annexation of Crimea.</p> <p>“One lesson from this war is we should have listened to those who know Putin,” European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in her State of the European Union speech last month. “They have been telling us for years that Putin would not stop.”</p> <p>Since February, the Baltics and Poland have repeatedly called for the provision of more and faster military assistance, including more powerful offensive weapons, only to be rebuffed by the United States and Western European allies who wanted to make clear that they were not in a direct conflict with Russia.</p> <p>Slowly, that’s started to change, after Putin proved his wary neighbors right — repeatedly.</p> <p>The Russian president’s shocking escalation on Monday, firing dozens of missiles at Ukrainian civilian targets including power stations, was strongly condemned around the world. Western leaders are beginning to acknowledge that they may need to take more decisive steps to assure Ukraine’s victory.</p> <p>Ahead of key NATO meetings in Brussels on Wednesday and Thursday, the leaders of Baltic states have called on the West to scale up the supply of weapons to Kyiv, in particular air defense systems. The NATO Contact Group on Ukraine meets in Brussels on Wednesday and NATO defense ministers meet on Thursday.</p> <p>But in a sign the easternmost allies are already making progress, leaders of the Group of Seven on Tuesday issued a forceful statement endorsing Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky’s call for a “just peace” that leaves no room for capitulation to Putin’s demands. The G-7 insisted on the restoration of Ukraine’s sovereign territory, safeguarding Ukraine’s future security and reconstruction financed by Russia.</p> <p>Still, leaders in the Baltics are insisting more must be done.</p>

On Tuesday, Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas and von der Leyen, who is a former German defense minister, stood about 100 yards from Estonia's border with Russia in the town of Narva, sending a strong signal to the Kremlin that its escalation had not undermined Western support for Ukraine.

Kallas called for more military aid for Ukraine, especially modern antimissile systems and air defenses, as fast as possible.

"Ukraine's success on the battlefield means that we have been on the right track and that we must make use of this momentum," Kallas wrote in an email to The Washington Post after the appearance with von der Leyen. "It must be translated into ever increasing and stronger support to Ukrainian soldiers, economy and its people. Especially now when Russia is escalating in the most serious way since 24 February."

"Estonia knows the face of Russian occupation firsthand," Kallas added. "We know that peace under occupation doesn't mean the end of atrocities but more of them."

Baltic leaders have long argued that Western sanctions adopted in 2014 after Putin illegally annexed Crimea showed the West's lack of resolve in confronting the Russian president over his land grab. European leaders seemed to think the Baltics were so traumatized by Soviet occupation that they could not be objective.

"Jokingly, you know, we call this 'West-splaining,'" Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said. The West's message, he said, was that "after 50 years of occupation, it's understandable that you would have trust issues with a country that occupied you."

"For us in the Baltics, it all boils down to this notion of appeasement: that basically we can appease Russia," Landsbergis continued. "For us, it was always very clear, black and white. If a country is eager to cross another country's border, they're an aggressor and they will do that again, if they're not stopped. And they have not been stopped."

"That notion is quite pervasive, this notion of peaceful settlement with an aggressor," he added. "I'm really hopeful that it's now waning."

Amid Putin's threats of using nuclear weapons, his claimed annexation of four more regions of Ukraine and military escalation, the leaders of Poland and the Baltic states are once again urging Western leaders not to blink.

"This is also a war of nerves," Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics said. "The Russians are trying to figure out if they are going to be allowed to take over Ukraine and if we will yield to nuclear blackmail, or will we try to negotiate a deal, land for peace."

Rinkevics said Ukraine clearly needed air defense systems to protect the country from Russian missile attacks on civilian targets and critical infrastructure such as power stations.

"That's one thing I think that they also have been calling for weeks and months — more of all kinds of weapons," he said. "Actually, my bottom line is that we should give Ukraine everything they ask for."

Landsbergis said Ukraine urgently needed tanks and aviation as well as air defense systems.

"We need to stop debating whether we should provide more weapons to Ukraine and provide everything that we have that they would be able to use, and they are able to use a lot," he said.

Estonia and Latvia have supplied more military aid to Ukraine per capita than any other country. The Baltic countries and Poland have also been the staunchest backers of economic sanctions against Russia, even though, as neighbors, their own economies have been the hardest hit by the measures cutting off business with a large market right next door.

Kristi Raik, director of the International Center for Defense and Security's Estonian Foreign Policy Institute, said Western policy toward Russia since 2007 ignored clear signs of Russia's revanchist imperialism and autocratic path.

"The Western failure was that they did not take it seriously or believe that Russia was serious about it," Raik said. "And then when Russia was getting more aggressive and trying to impose its agenda, the Western response was not to put limits on Russian aggression and to make it clear that if Russia violates the core principles of international security, there will be costs and consequences."

The West's soft response, particularly after Russia invaded Georgia in 2008, only encouraged Moscow, Raik said: "If the response had been stronger, it might have been possible to avoid the situation we are in now, with a full-scale war in Europe."

She said Western restrictions on the types of weapons sent to Ukraine did not prevent Russian escalation. "Russia was determined to win and to destroy Ukraine's independent statehood, and Russia is using all the means it can to achieve that goal," she said. "The West's restrictions on assistance to Ukraine doesn't really help the situation."

Rinkevics said the West would have to sharply scale up military production in coming years.

"It is absolutely clear that the next five to 10 years are going to be very difficult. We need equipment to replenish our stocks. We need more equipment for NATO members. We need equipment for Ukraine. I think we need to acknowledge that this is going to be a long-lasting war."

Unless the West stands firm, the easternmost allies argue, Putin would defeat Ukraine, before potentially attacking northern Kazakhstan in future years, expanding his grip on the Caucasus, or trying to push further West into Moldova or beyond.

"If he sees that there is only talk and no action at this point, then of course he will try to challenge NATO itself," Rinkevics said.

For Landsbergis, only a Ukrainian victory will insure his own country's security and that of others. "They have to win for all of our sakes," he said.

Kallas said only a show of force would stop Russia's aggression and end the war. "The way to peace," she said, "is to push Russia out of Ukraine."

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HEADLINE	10/11 Los Angeles confronts racial divide anew
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/11/us/los-angeles-city-council-race.html
GIST	<p>LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles City Council chamber became a raucous floor for protest on Tuesday, as an hourslong cavalcade of speakers furiously demanded that three Latino council members immediately resign over a secretly recorded private discussion that involved racist insults and slurs.</p> <p>Latino residents said they were betrayed by their own leaders. A Black speaker said she wanted "an investigation into all decisions that have affected Black people" in Los Angeles. A white council member whose Black child was the target of racist comments tearfully told his colleagues how he and his husband were both "raw and angry and heartbroken and sick."</p> <p>President Biden on Tuesday called for the departure of the three council members in the nation's second-largest city. "He believes they should all resign," Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary, said. "The language that was used and tolerated in that conversation was unacceptable, and it was appalling."</p>

The recorded conversation involving some of Los Angeles's top power brokers exposed the racial and ethnic factions that have come to dominate politics in California. But it also highlighted the political impatience among leaders of the city's largest ethnic group: Latinos, who make up roughly half of the city's population but who hold only four of its 15 City Council seats.

Los Angeles is a kind of microcosm of the world; its roughly four million residents speak a combined 200-plus languages at home. Over the decades, the assorted constituencies have tried to develop a coalition style of politics based on common interests in the heavily Democratic city, but, beneath that veneer, the reality often has been a quest for power and political spoils.

The recording was a conversation among Nury Martinez, the Council president; Gil Cedillo and Kevin de León, council members; and Ron Herrera, the leader of the powerful Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, that took place in October 2021 during intense negotiations over City Council redistricting.

Ms. Martinez is heard comparing the Black child of Councilman Mike Bonin to a "changuito," Spanish for little monkey, and joking with Mr. de León that Mr. Bonin carries the child around like a designer handbag. Those were only two of the offensive comments in the 80-minute recording, which included ugly remarks describing recent migrants from the Mexican state of Oaxaca and disparaging remarks about the trustworthiness of white liberals and a councilwoman who is of South Asian descent.

News of the recording was first reported on Sunday [by The Los Angeles Times](#); by Monday night, Mr. Herrera had resigned from the labor federation and Ms. Martinez had relinquished her leadership post on the City Council, although she resisted calls for her to leave the Council entirely. Mr. Cedillo and Mr. de León also have resisted calls for them to step down from their council seats.

Although the raw language on the audio riveted the city, political observers said the recording was less a reflection of Los Angeles residents — who in polls largely express pride in the city's diversity — than of the political climate in City Hall. Challenged by Covid-19, besieged with a succession of public corruption investigations and presented with the political opportunity of new political maps, Los Angeles local government has, in the past couple of years, been a [hotbed of internecine conflict](#).

"As much as it was a racist, racial, ethnic disparagement of everyone in town, it was more about power," Zev Yaroslavsky, a longtime Los Angeles leader who served for 40 years on the City Council and the county's Board of Supervisors, said of the meeting.

"It was a raw power grab," he said.

Mr. Cedillo and Mr. de León appeared on the dais near the start of Tuesday's meeting and were greeted with shouted profanities from the packed gallery. They left after a brief discussion with Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, who was presiding over the meeting as president pro tem.

Outside, before the session, protesters chanted "fuera," or "out" in Spanish, demanding that the three council members resign. Inside, the cacophonous demonstration was so relentless and deafening that the council members recessed, hoping, in vain, for calm.

Later, during the meeting, Mr. Bonin said through tears: "I take a lot of hits, and I know I practically invite a bunch of them. But my son? Man, that makes my soul bleed."

Mr. O'Farrell, the council member leading the meeting, condemned the comments and the political maneuvering of his colleagues. "There are no excuses," he said. "The court of public opinion has rendered a verdict, and the verdict is they all must resign."

For more than a half-century, Los Angeles politics have been a study in demographic constituencies and race relations. Not for nothing is Rodney King's plea during the 1992 riots often viewed as the city's signature utterance: "Can we all get along?"

White Angelenos, particularly in the San Fernando Valley and on the city's affluent Westside, have long controlled the city's wealth and power, but they now represent only 28 percent of the population.

The city's Black community, with a vibrant middle class and powerful community leaders like Tom Bradley, a former mayor, and Magic Johnson, the Los Angeles Lakers star, has long wielded clout. Still, Black Angelenos are leaving the city as many are priced out of the communities they have built over decades. Although 20 percent of the Council seats are held by Black elected officials, Black Angelenos make up only 8.8 percent of the population.

The city's Asian community has become a rising political force with nearly 12 percent of the population. But Latinos make up the city's largest ethnic group by far.

In recent years, young progressives who studied the Los Angeles riots in school have risen to power, learning from past racial and ethnic conflicts in the city. Labor organizations also have gained influence as their ranks have swelled with Latino workers following California's battle over immigrant rights in the 1990s.

"There are naturally tensions," said Mr. Yaroslavsky, who now teaches at the Luskin School of Public Affairs at the University of California, Los Angeles, which conducts annual surveys of Los Angeles County. "The question is how you deal with that tension. I think there's been a lot of effort made in this city and county to manage it."

Constance L. Rice, a veteran civil rights lawyer in the city, said that efforts to work together tended to intensify during zero-sum contests such as the redrawing of political boundaries that occurs each decade. A citizen advisory committee conducts Los Angeles's redistricting process and recommends maps, but — unlike California's statewide line-drawing by an independent commission — the final boundaries are determined by the City Council.

In years past, Ms. Rice said, lawyers with expertise in federal voting rights law wielded considerable influence on the drawing of local political boundaries. As the Supreme Court has eroded the federal Voting Rights Act, however, outside experts have wielded less clout and political battles have intensified, she said.

"It used to be all about maximizing rights and balancing power," Ms. Rice said. "Now it's 'Game of Thrones.'"

As Angelenos processed the furor, calls for solutions focused on whether the city's redistricting process had been changed — and whether it might have been corrupted. Council members said on Tuesday that they intended to seek an independent redistricting process that doesn't allow them to draw their own political lines.

Stephen Jn-Marie, a pastor and longtime activist in Los Angeles, said he participated in a Zoom call with roughly 60 Black organizers to discuss the audio recordings on Sunday night. On Tuesday morning, he arranged a news conference ahead of the City Council meeting "so folks could get the word out about how we feel and what must be done to move forward."

According to Mr. Jn-Marie, the questions arising about redistricting were the most important. "We are going to need to look at those maps," he said. "Because of the fact that it was redistricting in the context of Black and Indigenous folks and minimizing their power, we are calling for an investigation."

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HEADLINE	10/11 Karl becomes 11 th named Atlantic storm
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/article/tropical-storm-karl-hurricane.html
GIST	Tropical Storm Karl formed in the Bay of Campeche off the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday, becoming the 11th named storm of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season.

Karl was 125 miles northeast of Veracruz, Mexico, and was moving north-northwest at about 6 miles per hour as of 11 p.m. Eastern time, according to [the National Hurricane Center](#). The storm's maximum sustained winds were 40 m.p.h.

A storm is given a name after it reaches wind speeds of at least 39 miles per hour.

The government of Mexico issued a tropical storm watch for the Gulf Coast from Cabo Rojo to Roca Partida. A tropical storm watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the area over the next 48 hours.

The storm is expected to continue strengthening gradually over the next day before weakening on Thursday, forecasters said. Karl is expected to continue moving northwest before a gradual turn west and west-southwest on Wednesday. By Thursday, forecasters said, the storm will approach the coast of Mexico and projections show that [it could then hit the area by 1 a.m. on Friday](#).

Karl could dump up to 10 inches of rain on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and Southern Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range, and the coast could see 6 inches. The Mexican coastline could also see swells that could create life-threatening surf and rip currents, forecasters said.

The Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June through November, [had a relatively quiet start](#), with only three named storms before Sept. 1 and none during August, the first time that has happened since 1997. Storm activity picked up in early September with [Danielle](#) and [Earl](#), which formed within a day of each other.

Next came [Fiona](#), which left much of Puerto Rico without electricity for more than a week, and then [Gaston](#) and [Hermine](#). [Ian](#) struck southwestern Florida as a Category 4 storm in late September, killing more than 100 people and causing a staggering scale of destruction. [Julia](#), which formed 10 days after Ian made landfall in Florida, hit Central America with heavy rain on Sunday.

In early August, scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [issued an updated forecast](#) for the rest of the season, which still called for an above-normal level of activity. In it, they predicted that there could be 14 to 20 named storms during the season, which runs through Nov. 30, with six to 10 turning into hurricanes with sustained winds of at least 74 m.p.h. Three to five of those could strengthen into what NOAA calls major hurricanes — Category 3 or stronger — with winds of at least 111 m.p.h.

Last year, there were 21 named storms, after [a record-breaking 30 in 2020](#). For the past two years, meteorologists have exhausted the list of names used to identify storms during the Atlantic hurricane season, an occurrence that has happened only one other time, in 2005.

The links between hurricanes and climate change have become clearer with each passing year. Data shows that [hurricanes have become stronger worldwide](#) during the past four decades. A warming planet can expect stronger hurricanes over time, and a higher incidence of the most powerful storms — though the overall number of storms could drop, because factors like stronger wind shear could keep weaker storms from forming.

Hurricanes are also becoming wetter because of more water vapor in the warmer atmosphere; scientists have suggested storms like [Hurricane Harvey in 2017](#) produced far more rain than they would have without the human effects on climate. Also, rising sea levels are contributing to higher storm surge — the most destructive element of tropical cyclones.

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HEADLINE	10/12 Despite crackdown, Iran protests spread
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/12/world/middleeast/iran-women-protests-strike.html

Defying a lethal crackdown in cities across Iran, protesters demanding the ouster of Iran's Islamic Republic have driven their uprising into a fourth week, with workers from the country's vital oil sector going on strike this week and activists calling for further work stoppages and protests on Wednesday.

Despite efforts by Iran's security forces, including the feared plainclothes Basij militias, to crush the protests, they have only widened. Some have turned into chaotic street battles, with the security forces opening fire and protesters fighting back and refusing to give ground, according to witnesses, rights groups and videos of the clashes on social media.

The internet and popular communications applications in Iran have been disrupted for weeks, making it difficult to confirm the true toll of the government's crackdown on the protests, which have been [led and inspired by women](#) from their start in mid-September. But human rights groups said Tuesday that at least 185 people had been killed, including 28 children, with thousands injured or arrested so far. The government said that 24 of its security forces had been killed and about 2,000 wounded.

The protests were sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of the morality police after they arrested her under the country's rule requiring women to wear dress modestly and cover their hair in public. Iran's security forces claimed she died of a heart attack, but her family said she had been killed by blows to her head and was healthy at the time of her arrest.

The government's violent crackdown has been intense in many cities across the country, and in recent weeks it has escalated in the Kurdish region where Ms. Amini lived and the protests began.

One city there, Sanandaj, about 250 miles from Tehran, came [under intense fire](#) over the weekend, according to residents, rights groups and videos posted on social media. Security forces indiscriminately opened fire on residents and homes and threw tear gas into residential buildings, killing at least seven people and injuring more than 400, according to the Kurdish rights group Hengaw.

Since the protests began in September, two teenage girls have joined Ms. Amini as the faces of the uprising, appearing on posters and street art across the country, their names chanted as rallying cries and trending on Persian-language Twitter. The girls — [Nika Shakarami](#) and [Sarina Esmailzadeh](#), both 16 but from different towns — went missing after they joined the protests in September, their families only learning their fates after the authorities suddenly returned their bodies.

The government claimed that the girls had killed themselves by jumping from buildings. But family members immediately rejected those accusations, telling the media and human rights groups that the girls had been beaten to death.

Last week, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, broke weeks of silence over the protests, accusing the United States and Israel of aiding the demonstrators, and voicing support for the security forces' actions.

But [scenes like those this month at the Sharif University of Technology in Tehran](#) — Iran's most elite academic institution, where the authorities shot rubber bullets into crowds of young people and beat and arrested dozens, according to witnesses — have reverberated, outraging even some Iranians who had formerly supported the revolutionary government.

Iran has been rocked by nationwide protest movements before, most notably over contested election results in 2009, and over the economy in 2017 and 2019. Those also brought a swift and deadly reaction from the authorities.

But the current uprising has not only been able to survive weeks of crackdown attempts; it has also grown and taken a tone directly threatening the country's theocratic leadership, with women burning their hijabs, campuses erupting into protest, and marchers chanting "Death to the dictator!" and "We don't want an Islamic republic!"

Now nearing the month mark, the protests have taken on a rhythm. Larger demonstrations erupt across the nation every few days, including one this past Saturday. Those have been backed by smaller neighborhood-scale protests nearly every day, and by widespread daily acts of civil disobedience, including women walking with their hair uncovered, shops closing, and people chanting against the regime nightly from rooftops and open windows.

Activists called for another nationwide protest on Wednesday, and called for workers and businesses to join.

More professionals have been answering the call recently. Saeed Dehghan, a prominent lawyer, said a group of lawyers planned to stage a protest outside the judiciary building in Tehran on Wednesday to denounce “the state violating the rights of the people.”

The country’s main medical association issued a statement on Tuesday signed by 800 physicians condemning the violence and stating that they consider “the people as the real owners of the country, and we support their just demands.”

Workers in the oil and energy sector have staged strikes for two days. On Monday, workers from the Abadan and Kangan oil refineries and the Bushehr Petrochemical Project in Asaluyeh went on strike, and a video showed the workers in Asaluyeh blocking a road and chanting “Death to the dictator!” Eleven workers were arrested on Tuesday, but the walkouts continued, according to media reports, and more were expected on Wednesday.

Strikes that could further damage the economy, particularly those called by the unions representing the bazaar merchants and the oil and energy sector, carry a heavy weight in Iran’s history. During the 1979 Islamic revolution, strikes in those sectors were a powerful tool that accelerated the Shah’s collapse.

Amnesty International and rights groups sounded the alarm on Tuesday about the violence unfolding in Sanandaj, the city in the Kurdish region, which has a strong tradition of civil society and organized opposition parties.

Rebin Rahmani, director of the France-based Kurdistan Human Rights Network, said that it had identified four demonstrators killed by security forces in Sanandaj since the protests began, including a man in his 20s who was shot in his car by a plainclothes security officer.

Videos posted on social media and supported by witness accounts were said to show the security forces standing in the middle of a road in broad daylight in Sanandaj, shooting at crowds. At night, people barricaded the streets with debris and bonfires, and fought back by throwing bricks at the security forces. One video appeared to show the forces lining up on an empty street at night and firing at the windows of homes.

Haider, a resident of Sanandaj in his 20s who works in sales and marketing and asked to only be identified by his middle name out of fear of retribution, told The New York Times that he had heard gunfire and the sound of protesters from his balcony on Saturday and Sunday night. “We were shocked, they were trying to kill people,” he said. When he and his family left for a farm just outside the city on Monday, they saw surveillance drones overhead, he said.

Iran’s interior minister, Ahmad Vahidi, traveled to Sanandaj on Tuesday and said in a speech that those protesting in the city were “the enemy of the Iranian nation,” according to Iran’s official media. The sound of gunfire continued even as the minister toured the city.

In Qom, a religious city that has traditionally been a power base for the state, young protesters blocked the streets and chanted for the downfall of Ayatollah Khamenei, videos on social media showed.

“We need to live in freedom!” said Haider, the Sanandaj resident. He said a friend of his had lost an eye after being shot by pellets. “The government shouldn’t chose what we wear or what we hear.”

	<p>The official response has mostly been dismissive. President Ebrahim Raisi on Saturday compared protesters to flies and labeled them enemies during a speech at a university campus. Afterward, university demonstrations took on a new chant: “Raisi, get lost!”</p> <p>The head of the country’s judiciary, the hard-line cleric Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei, has played a central role in the crackdown on protesters, officials say. But on Sunday, he appeared to be attempting damage control, saying that he was ready for dialogue with protesters and that the government was willing to make “corrections” to policies.</p> <p>But many Iranians viewed Mr. Mohseni Ejei’s gesture as insincere, and instead took it as a sign that the state was realizing that crackdowns alone might not resolve the current crisis.</p> <p>The government is also facing increasingly vocal criticism for its handling of the crisis from its power base, including some conservative politicians. Mohammad Sadr, a member of the powerful Expediency Council that advises the supreme leader and has oversight over the government, said on Tuesday that Ms. Amini’s death had ignited “pent-up frustrations, demands and rage especially among the young generation,” and added that “you cannot rule by force.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/12 Rhode Island supervised drug use site
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/12/us/politics/rhode-island-overdoses.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage&section=US%20News
GIST	<p>PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Cristina Ramsey, frail but defiant, arrived at the headquarters of Project Weber/Renew to say her goodbyes to people who had watched out for her for nearly two decades.</p> <p>She embraced staff members at the group, which helps drug users in one of this city’s poorest neighborhoods, convinced they had prolonged her life with clean needles, treatment, housing and friendship. She told them that she was going into hospice care and that the organization “really did help me — a lot.”</p> <p>Ten days later, she was dead, a victim of multiple drug-related illnesses. Ms. Ramsey, 50, a longtime drug user, was infected with H.I.V. and had liver disease and heart problems, a complicated case that left Project Weber’s staff wondering what else could have been done to save her.</p> <p>By the middle of next year, the group hopes to have at least a part of the answer. It is preparing to open the first supervised drug consumption site legalized by a state — one of the most daring experiments in “harm reduction” in America to date.</p> <p>By letting people use drugs on site and under the supervision of social and medical workers, rather than alone, Project Weber hopes to curb overdose deaths and infectious diseases and coax more users like Ms. Ramsey into using medication and supplies for safer drug use.</p> <p>Many public health experts see this strategy as a possible template for transforming how the United States addresses drug use. The concept has drawn considerable interest in recent years: New York City allowed two sites to open last year, and some state legislatures have considered following suit. Rhode Island has authorized a two-year trial that Project Weber and a partner treatment organization anticipate leading.</p> <p>Research has shown that supervised consumption sites in Canada, Australia and some European countries have saved lives and led to people getting treatment.</p> <p>Top Biden administration officials have also signaled openness to the idea. In 2019, the Trump administration sued a Philadelphia group that aimed to open a site, but under Mr. Biden, the Justice</p>

Department is weighing whether to drop the lawsuit. If it decides to do so, that could serve as a tacit endorsement of the strategy.

Brandon Marshall, an epidemiologist at the Brown University School of Public Health who studies the strategy, said the sites “require us to shift our thinking in how we treat people who use drugs and how we address health issues they face, and how as a society we want to provide care to people, or not.”

“So much of the history of the drug war in the U.S. is pushing people into the shadows, criminalizing their drug use,” he added. “These facilities do the opposite. They say, ‘We want to bring you in and give you a safe environment where you will be respected.’”

But the idea of government-sanctioned infrastructure for drug use has not yet attracted broad political support. Conservatives and even some Democratic leaders remain wary: Citing “a world of unintended consequences,” Gov. Gavin Newsom of California, a Democrat, [recently vetoed](#) a bill that would have legalized supervised consumption in some cities there.

Critics of the sites see them as not helping users like Ms. Ramsey but hurting those users by facilitating the use of drugs that can lead to quick and fatal overdoses. Some who live near proposed sites have said they fear loitering and drug use outside them. “Supervised injection sites have led to an increase in crime, discarded needles and social disorder in the surrounding neighborhoods,” a group of Republicans in the U.S. Senate [wrote to President Biden](#) this year.

Harm reduction experts say that research has already shown that the sites do not lead to upticks [in crime](#) or [community drug use](#).

Rhode Island has mirrored the nation’s [record-shattering tally](#) of overdose deaths. More people in the state died of accidental overdoses in 2021 than [any other year on record](#); roughly three-quarters of the 435 deaths involved fentanyl, an extremely potent class of synthetic opioid that is often found mixed into other drugs.

To open the site, Rhode Island has a novel source of funding: \$2 million [in legal settlement money](#) from litigation against prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors that has been earmarked for supervised consumption by [a state committee](#). Project Weber and Victa, a partner treatment clinic, still have to submit a more detailed application to the state before they can receive funding. The Providence City Council also has to approve the site’s location before the state can license it.

Rhode Island’s everyone-knows-everyone culture helps to explain its role as the first state to clear the way for supervised drug use, residents and lawmakers said. But some cities and legislators have still [expressed discomfort](#).

Arthur J. Corvese, a Democratic state representative who opposed supervised consumption, [said last year](#) that “we set rules, regulations, laws and parameters for our people to conduct themselves, to comport themselves.” He continued, “But yet we will say, ‘You want to chase the dragon or shoot up? There’s the place to do it.’”

State lawmakers say that the pervasiveness of fentanyl has sped up acceptance of helping people use drugs safely. Among its services, Project Weber distributes [test strips](#) that show if a drug contains fentanyl, a tool it would distribute at the supervised site.

One lawmaker who helped push state legislation authorizing the sites, John G. Edwards, said that even some of the more conservative law enforcement officials he knew were supporting them.

“This is not some drug haven,” Mr. Edwards, a Democratic state representative, said. “When you understand the whole issue, you understand that this means whether people live or die.”

Ashley Perry, a recovered user and Project Weber employee, has spent years delivering many of the services of the future site on her own. As she drove around the neighborhood surrounding Project Weber one recent morning, residents ran up to her van to say hello and to seek clean needles.

Ms. Perry serves as the emergency contact for nearly two dozen users; she has picked up some of them from the hospital when they were discharged after an overdose. She shows up in court with them, then works to expunge their records.

Supervised consumption is not just about dispensing supplies and preventing overdoses and infections, said Colleen Daley Ndoye, Project Weber's executive director. The location, she said, will allow the group's staff to work with users, earning their trust and linking them to other services. Ms. Daley Ndoye said that as with other harm reduction programs, the site would not aim to force people to enter treatment, nor would it expect that they do so, but it would offer the option if participants were interested.

The program will offer H.I.V. and hepatitis C testing, supplies for safer drug use, syringe disposal and drug checking tools. Representatives from Victa plan to offer initial doses of buprenorphine, a medication that eases withdrawal symptoms and cravings, to interested clients. Medical staff members will treat wounds from injecting drugs and help manage hepatitis C.

For years, Nicole P., a sex worker who said she used drugs at least once a day, would not reveal her name to Ms. Perry. Ms. Perry took to calling her "Star," learning her real name only when she retrieved her from a hospital after an overdose.

Nicole, who declined to provide her last name, is now a regular at Project Weber. She uses cocaine and fentanyl and takes methadone, a heavily regulated opioid used to treat addiction by controlling cravings and withdrawal symptoms. With Project Weber's help, she moved into an apartment late last year, devouring design magazines, fantasizing about acquiring her own furnishings and dreaming of a more settled life.

Nicole said she was interested in trying the supervised consumption site but was anxious about it, too, in part because it might feel invasive. "I don't like people watching me do it," she said. But Ms. Perry said that watching over clients at their most vulnerable moments — when they could easily, abruptly stop breathing — would prevent some of the many deaths that occur when people use drugs alone in the era of omnipresent fentanyl.

"The No. 1 thing we teach people is: Don't use alone," Ms. Perry said.

Ms. Ramsey, the longtime drug user, worked for Project Weber during a period of sobriety, counseling users and helping with harm reduction programs such as naloxone distribution and needle exchanges. Days before she died in August, she attributed her poor health to a contaminated needle. She grew sicker in recent years, even as she sought more help: treatment from medical staff members at Project Weber's busy Pawtucket site and sterile supplies for drug use.

She said she worried about how successful supervised consumption would be, given that for some users it may not curtail cravings, impulses and withdrawal symptoms. Still, she said it would be an important step in stopping fatal accidents.

The supervised consumption site is set to be located on a bus line, close to a hospital and far from schools and Providence's downtown, factors that Project Weber and Victa staff members believe will head off opposition.

Project Weber has spoken with law enforcement about how to handle activity around the site, to prevent confrontation and arrests. "Their sense is this is a lifesaving thing and this will make their jobs easier and there will be fewer overdoses to attend to," Ms. Daley Ndoye said of the local police.

A spokeswoman for the Providence Police Department did not respond to a request for comment.

Dr. Marshall, the Brown epidemiologist, conducted some of the [earliest research](#) into supervised consumption in Canada, where sites have operated since 2003. He now oversees a team of researchers studying the concept, advises the groups opening the Rhode Island site and sits on the committee that earmarked the money for supervised consumption.

“After moving to the U.S. in 2012, I left this topic aside because we were so far from this being a reality here,” he said. Criticism that the sites are unproven, he added, “only demonstrates the need to open them here in the U.S.”

Not everyone who might benefit from the site is in favor of it yet. Desiree Lafreniere, who has the names of friends who died from fentanyl overdoses tattooed on her arm, relies on medication and Project Weber’s syringe exchange. Her desperation to get clean makes her frown on the idea of a supervised drug use site.

“I think it’s just an easy way for us to get high without getting in trouble,” she said. “And I don’t think that’s the way to get us off drugs.”

Ms. Daley Ndoeye said those concerns reminded her that some users had internalized the stigmas around their drug use, thinking that “you have to be punished out of it or criminalized out of it.”

Nicole, the user who picks up harm reduction tools from Project Weber, recalled not knowing how to ask for help, using needles she had found on the ground at a nearby cemetery. Ms. Perry once found her alone on Thanksgiving in the car she lived in and delivered a holiday meal to her.

“She was actually thinking about me,” Nicole said.

Asked whether she ever feared dying from a fentanyl overdose, Nicole turned away, fighting back tears.

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HEADLINE	10/12 Companies hoarding workers good news?
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/12/business/economy/companies-hoarding-workers.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage&section=US%20Politics
GIST	<p>PROVO, Utah — Chad Pritchard and his colleagues are trying everything to staff their pizza shop and bistro, and as they do, they have turned to a new tactic: They avoid firing employees at all costs.</p> <p>Infractions that previously would have led to a quick dismissal no longer do at the chef’s two places, Fat Daddy’s Pizzeria and Bistro Provenance. Consistent transportation issues have ceased to be a deal breaker. Workers who show up drunk these days are sent home to sober up.</p> <p>Employers in Provo, a college town at the base of the Rocky Mountains where unemployment is near the lowest in the nation at 1.9 percent, have no room to lose workers. Bistro Provenance, which opened in September, has been unable to hire enough employees to open for lunch at all, or for dinner on Sundays and Mondays. The workers it has are often new to the industry, or young: On a recent Wednesday night, a 17-year-old could be found torching a crème brûlée.</p> <p>Down the street, Mr. Pritchard’s pizza shop is now relying on an outside cleaner to help his thin staff tidy up. And up and down the wide avenue that separates the two restaurants, storefronts display “Help Wanted” signs or announce that the businesses have had to temporarily reduce their hours.</p> <p>Provo’s desperation for workers is an intense version of the labor crunch that has plagued employers nationwide over the past two years — one that has prompted changes in hiring and layoff practices that could have big implications for the U.S. economy. Policymakers are hoping that after struggling through</p>

the worst labor shortages America has experienced in at least several decades, employers will be hesitant to lay off workers even when the economy cools.

That may help prevent the kind of painful recession the Federal Reserve is hoping to avoid as it tries to combat persistent inflation. America's economy is facing a marked — and intentional — slowdown as the Fed raises interest rates to chill demand and drive down price increases, the kind of pullback that would usually result in notably higher unemployment. But officials are still hoping to achieve a soft landing in which growth moderates without causing widespread job losses. A few have speculated that today's staffing woes will help them to pull it off, as companies try harder than they have in the past to weather a slowdown without cutting staff.

"Businesses that experienced unprecedented challenges restoring or expanding their work forces following the pandemic may be more inclined to make greater efforts to retain their employees than they normally would when facing a slowdown in economic activity," Lael Brainard, the Fed's vice chair, said in a recent speech. "This may mean that slowing aggregate demand will lead to a smaller increase in unemployment than we have seen in previous recessions."

For now, the job market remains strong. Employers added 263,000 workers in September, fewer than in recent months but more than was normal before the pandemic. Unemployment is at 3.5 percent, matching the lowest level in 50 years, and average hourly earnings picked up at a solid 5 percent clip compared with a year earlier.

But that is expected to change. When the Fed raises interest rates and slows down the economy, it also weakens the labor market. Wage gains slow, paving the way for inflation to cool down, and in the process, unemployment rises — potentially, significantly.

In the 1980s, when inflation was faster than it is now and entrenched, the Fed lifted rates drastically to roughly 20 percent and sent unemployment to above 10 percent. Few economists expect an outcome that severe this time since today's inflation burst has been shorter-lived and rates are not expected to climb nearly as much.

Still, Fed officials themselves expect unemployment to rise nearly a full percentage point to 4.4 percent next year — and policymakers have admitted that is a mild estimate, given how much they are trying to slow down the economy. Some economists have penciled in worse outcomes. Deutsche Bank, for instance, predicts 5.6 percent joblessness by the end of 2023.

Labor hoarding offers a glimmer of hope that could help the Fed's more benign unemployment forecast to become reality: Employers who are loath to jettison workers may help the labor market to slow down and wage growth to moderate without a spike in joblessness.

"Companies are still confronting this enormous churn and losing people, and they don't know what to do to hang on to people," said Julia Pollak, chief economist at the career site ZipRecruiter. "They're definitely hanging on to workers for dear life just because they're so scarce."

When the job market slows, employers will have recent, firsthand memories of how expensive it can be to recruit, and train, workers. Many employers may enter the slowdown still severely understaffed, particularly in industries like leisure and hospitality that have struggled to hire and retain workers since the start of the pandemic. Those factors may make them less likely to institute layoffs.

And after long months of very tight labor markets — there are still nearly two open jobs for every unemployed worker — companies may be hesitant to believe that any uptick in worker availability will last.

"There's a lot of uncertainty about how big of a downturn are we facing," said Benjamin Friedrich, an associate professor of strategy at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. "You kind of want to be ready when opportunities arise. The way I think about labor hoarding is, it has option value."

Instead of firing, businesses may look for other ways to trim costs. Mr. Pritchard in Provo and his business partner, Janine Coons, said that if business fell off, their first resort would be to cut hours. Their second would be taking pay cuts themselves. Firing would be a last resort.

The pizzeria didn't lay off workers during the pandemic, but Mr. Pritchard and Ms. Coons witnessed how punishing it can be to hire — and since all of their competitors have been learning the same lesson, they do not expect them to let go of their employees easily even if demand pulls back.

“People aren't going to fire people,” Mr. Pritchard said.

But economists warned that what employers think they will do before a slowdown and what they actually do when they start to experience financial pain could be two different things.

The idea that a tight labor market may leave businesses gun-shy about layoffs is untested. Some economists said that they could not recall any other downturn where employers broadly resisted culling their work force.

“It would be a pretty notable change to how employers responded in the past,” said Nick Bunker, director of North American economic research for the career site Indeed.

And even if they do not fire their full-time employees, companies have been making increased use of temporary or just-in-time help in recent months. Gusto, a small-business payroll and benefits platform, conducted an analysis of its clients and found that the ratio of contractors per employee had increased more than 60 percent since 2019.

If the economy slows, gigs for those temporary workers could dry up, prompting them to begin searching for full-time jobs — possibly causing unemployment or underemployment to rise even if nobody is officially fired.

Policymakers know a soft landing is a long shot. Jerome H. Powell, the Fed chair, acknowledged during his last news conference that the Fed's own estimate of how much unemployment might rise in a downturn was a “modest increase in the unemployment rate from a historical perspective, given the expected decline in inflation.”

But he also added that “we see the current situation as outside of historical experience.”

The reasons for hope extend beyond labor hoarding. Because job openings are so unusually high right now, policymakers hope that workers can move into available positions even if some firms do begin layoffs as the labor market slows. Companies that have been desperate to hire for months — like Utah State Hospital in Provo — may swoop in to pick up anyone who is displaced.

Dallas Earnshaw and his colleagues at the psychiatric hospital have been struggling mightily to hire enough nurse's aides and other workers, though raising pay and loosening recruitment standards have helped around the edges. Because he cannot hire enough people to expand in needed ways, Mr. Earnshaw is poised to snap up employees if the labor market cools.

“We're desperate,” Mr. Earnshaw said.

But for the moment, workers remain hard to find. At the bistro and pizza shop in downtown Provo, what worries Mr. Pritchard is that labor will become so expensive that — combined with rapid ingredient inflation — it will be hard or impossible to make a profit without lifting prices on pizzas or prime rib so much that consumers cannot bear the change.

“What scares me most is not the economic slowdown,” he said. “It's the hiring shortage that we have.”

HEADLINE	10/11 Reevaluation of US-Saudi relationship?
SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/oct/11/biden-demands-re-evaluation-us-saudi-relationship/
GIST	<p>President Biden has ordered a reevaluation of the longstanding U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia as Democrats fume over OPEC's decision to cut production, the White House said on Tuesday.</p> <p>The White House and private market analysts say the Saudi-led cuts — equal to 2 million barrels per day — bolster Moscow as Russian President Vladimir Putin desperately seeks the revenues to finance his war in Ukraine. The effect of the production cut by the so-called “OPEC+” group will mean better prices for Russian gas exports and new upward pressure on the politically sensitive price Americans pay for a gallon of gas.</p> <p>OPEC's decision also flew in the face of Mr. Biden's thinly veiled public pleas and private lobbying to Saudi Arabia to at least maintain global oil production quotas as gas prices peaked over the summer.</p> <p>National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the president questions whether the country's relationship with the oil-rich kingdom is “where it needs to be” and whether it is “serving our national security interests.”</p> <p>“He does believe that this is a good time to reevaluate and see what that relationship ought to look like going forward,” Mr. Kirby told reporters. “It was an OPEC+ cartel decision, but clearly Saudi Arabia is the leader of that cartel.”</p> <p>The White House comments came a day after Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez sharply criticized Saudi Arabia for the production cut and pledged to block “any cooperation with Riyadh until the kingdom reassesses its position” saying the production cut was a gift to Mr. Putin.</p> <p>“There simply is no room to play both sides of this conflict — either you support the rest of the free world in trying to stop a war criminal from violently wiping off an entire country off of the map, or you support him,” the New Jersey Democrat said. “The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia chose the latter in a terrible decision driven by economic self-interest.”</p> <p>He added, “The United States must immediately freeze all aspects of our cooperation with Saudi Arabia, including any arms sales and security cooperation beyond what is absolutely necessary to defend U.S. personnel and interests.”</p> <p>As the White House was announcing the review Tuesday, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut Democrat, and Rep. Ro Khanna, California Democrat, introduced a bill that would immediately pause all U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia for one year. This pause would also halt sales of spare and repair parts, support services and logistical support, The Associated Press reported.</p> <p>U.S. relations with Riyadh have long been a mix of cooperation and tension. Relations were strained with Jamal Khashoggi's death in 2018. A Saudi government hit team killed the U.S.-based dissent journalist in Turkey.</p> <p>Mr. Kirby said on Tuesday that the president did not consult with Mr. Menendez or any lawmakers before calling for a review of the relationship, but said he remains “willing to discuss” the review with members of Congress.</p> <p>“He knows that many members have expressed concerns on both sides of the aisle about where we stand now with the OPEC cartel and Saudi Arabia,” Mr. Kirby said. “He's willing to have that discussion.”</p> <p>Mr. Biden faced a strong backlash for his July visit to Saudi Arabia for fist-bumping Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who U.S. intelligence concluded had directed the Khashoggi operation. While Mr. Biden was running for office in 2020, he promised to make Saudi Arabia a “pariah.”</p>

But the president was willing to withstand the criticism to increase the supply of oil, pushing Saudi Arabia to increase its output by about 750,000 barrels per day as the Ukraine war and sanctions on Russia roiled the markets.

At the time of the visit, the average price of gas in the U.S. was \$4.52 per gallon, according to AAA. Prices at the pump have fallen steadily over recent months after hitting a record-high average of \$5.01 per gallon in June.

But OPEC's announcement stands to chip away at Mr. Biden's goodwill among voters.

The president defended the trip last week following OPEC's announcement, telling reporters that the visit "was not essentially about oil."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Tuesday that the president has yet to appoint an official to lead what she said would be a thorough review, offering few details on what policies might change.

Saudi Arabia has been a key customer of U.S. arms sales. To date, the administration has notified Congress of more \$4 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia, according to the Washington-based Forum on the Arms Trade, and in August, the administration offered details of a potential sale of more than \$3 billion in new arms for Riyadh, including 300 Patriot missiles.

Lawmakers from both parties have raised concerns about the relationship well before the latest dust-up. In June, a bipartisan group of House lawmakers offered a resolution that would end U.S. logistical support to the Saudi-led coalition that has intervened in Yemen's civil war to battle the Iran-backed Houthis. A similar measure has been introduced in the Senate.

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HEADLINE	10/12 WHO: need tackle 'devastating' long Covid
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/oct/12/long-covid-who-tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus
GIST	<p>Long Covid is "devastating" the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions of people, and wreaking havoc on health systems and economies, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned as he urged countries to launch "immediate" and "sustained" efforts to tackle the "very serious" crisis.</p> <p>The world has never been in a better position to end the Covid-19 pandemic, but it is also "very clear" that many of those infected by the virus, which first emerged in China in late 2019, are still experiencing "prolonged suffering", the WHO director general, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said.</p> <p>Covid has killed almost 6.5 million people and infected more than 600 million. The WHO estimates that 10% to 20% of survivors have been left with mid- and long-term symptoms such as fatigue, breathlessness and cognitive dysfunction. Women are more likely to suffer from the condition.</p> <p>With the absence of evidence about how best to treat it, long Covid is turning people's lives upside down, and many face "often lengthy" and "frustrating" waits for support or guidance, Tedros said. The large numbers of those cruelly affected by the long tail of Covid is also having a dangerous impact on health systems and economies still reeling from waves of infections.</p> <p>"While the pandemic has changed dramatically due to the introduction of many lifesaving tools, and there is light at the end of the tunnel, the impact of long Covid for all countries is very serious and needs immediate and sustained action equivalent to its scale," Tedros said, writing for the Guardian.</p> <p>Countries must now "seriously ramp up" both research into the condition and access to care for those affected if they are to "minimise the suffering" of their populations and protect their health systems and workforces.</p>

“Early in the pandemic, it was important for overwhelmed health systems to focus all of their life saving efforts on Covid-19 patients presenting with acute infection,” he said. “However, it is critical for governments to invest long-term in their health system and workers and make a plan now for dealing with long Covid.

“This plan should encompass: providing immediate access to antivirals to patients at high risk of serious disease, investing in research and sharing new tools and knowledge as they’re identified to prevent, detect and treat patients more effectively. It also means supporting patients’ physical and mental health as well as providing financial support for those who are unable to work.”

The intervention from the head of the UN agency comes as the Guardian launches a major new global series on the condition, [Living with long Covid](#).

Since the WHO declared an international emergency in 2020, the rollout of vaccines and treatments for the virus has helped stem the toll of deaths and hospitalisations. Reported deaths from Covid-19 this month are the lowest since March 2020.

However, there is mounting evidence that long Covid is preventing huge numbers of people from “living their fullest lives”, Tedros said. And that in turn is posing a fresh problem for countries still recovering from the pandemic, and in some cases, still having to cope with high levels of infections.

Stark research published this month suggests that as many as 17 million people in Europe alone may have experienced long Covid symptoms during the first two years of the pandemic.

The modeling also suggests that women are twice as likely as men to experience long Covid, and the risk increases dramatically among severe infections needing hospitalisation, the report said. One in three women and one in five men are likely to develop long Covid, according to the report.

“It’s added a significant burden to health workers and the health system overall, which is still dealing with additional waves of Covid-19 infection and the knock-on backlog of essential medical services that have been severely disrupted,” said Tedros.

“The world has already lost a significant number of the workforce to illness, death, fatigue, unplanned retirement due to an increase in long-term disability, which not only impacts the health system, but is a hit to the overarching economy.”

Writing for the Guardian, Tedros said there were “five key elements” necessary to drive forward efforts in tackling long Covid. Countries need to listen to patients, use their “first-hand knowledge” to shape long Covid policies, and collect better data to understand the condition better. Sharing of information between countries must be improved to “quickly close knowledge gaps” worldwide.

He also called for “equitable access” to Covid tests, treatments and vaccines to avoid infections in the first place and thereby cut the risk of long Covid, “sustained investment” in long Covid scientific research, and prompt “multi-disciplinary care” for long Covid patients.

“Delayed clinical care in patients with long Covid not only impacts their quality of life but the length of time they have symptoms,” Tedros said.

Prof Peter Openshaw, a UK government adviser and vice-chair of the government’s new and emerging respiratory virus threats advisory group (Nervtag), told the Guardian in an interview that he was “very concerned” about long Covid, and called for a more joined-up approach to research.

Asked if long Covid could persist for many years, Openshaw, a professor of experimental medicine at Imperial College London, said: “I think there will be people who are affected life-long, but how common that is going to be is hard to know at the moment. It’s too early to tell. But there are clearly some terrible stories of people whose lives have been devastated by post-Covid syndrome.”

Many of his colleagues in healthcare, who had previously been “energetic clinicians”, are “now unable to work because of long Covid”, Openshaw added. “Fortunately, most of us do get better. But I think it is quite clear that there are some people who just are devastated by it.”

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HEADLINE	10/12 Long Covid devastating lives, livelihoods
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/oct/12/long-covid-who-director-general-oped-tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus
GIST	<p>Crushing fatigue. Brain fog making straightforward tasks almost impossible. Shortness of breath walking up the stairs.</p> <p>Just some of the many symptoms people with long Covid (post-Covid-19 condition) have experienced according to patient groups, researchers and clinicians the World Health Organization (WHO) has worked with since cases of prolonged suffering from Covid-19 started to be recognised in mid-2020.</p> <p>Mostly data is only available from high-income countries, which means that we don’t currently have a clear picture on how many people are actually suffering. Current estimates suggest that tens of millions, and perhaps more, have contracted long Covid, and about 15% of those diagnosed with the condition have experienced symptoms for at least 12 months.</p> <p>It can affect anyone, but according to the latest data from WHO and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) women are twice as likely as men to have contracted the condition and those hospitalised with severe Covid are more likely to develop the condition. From all the interactions WHO has had with those living with the condition, carers, civil society groups and experts, it’s very clear that the condition is devastating people’s lives and livelihoods.</p> <p>It’s added a significant burden to health workers and the health system overall, which is still dealing with additional waves of infection and the knock-on backlog of essential medical services that have been severely disrupted.</p> <p>The world has already lost a significant number of the workforce to illness, death, fatigue, unplanned retirement due to an increase in long-term disability, which not only impacts the health system, but is a hit to the overarching economy. While the pandemic has changed dramatically due to the introduction of many lifesaving tools, and there is light at the end of the tunnel, the impact of long Covid for all countries is very serious and needs immediate and sustained action equivalent to its scale. There are five key elements to drive the effort forward.</p> <p>First, it’s really important to keep listening to the patient groups, researchers and health workers dealing with this condition, which we are still learning about. Governments should use their first-hand knowledge to help shape policies that aim to diagnose, support and treat people quickly. It’s also critical for health professionals to communicate that although the road to recovery may be long and frustrating at times, people do get better.</p> <p>Second, the best way for people to prevent long Covid is to avoid infection and while that is extremely difficult given the intense circulation of the virus globally, we can reduce the severity of Covid by ensuring equitable access and appropriate use of tests, therapeutics and vaccines. While almost 70% of people have received a vaccine, in low-income countries just 22% have been vaccinated. This inequity leaves billions of people vulnerable to infection, which will almost inevitably lead to increased numbers of patients with long Covid. All lives have equal worth so there needs to be concerted efforts to get life-saving tools to people that need them. Innovations are only as powerful as the people they reach.</p> <p>Third, we need systematic data collection on patients with long Covid. At the present time, most of the data collected and research conducted on long Covid is from high-income countries, leaving us blind to the impacts in low- and middle-income countries. Not knowing the scale of the challenge or if the</p>

condition presents differently around the world or in certain patient populations, undermines the overarching response and delays the scientific community from understanding the nature of long Covid and how best to treat it. WHO has a clinical data platform which aggregates anonymized information on patients with long Covid. I urge countries to share data to quickly close knowledge gaps.

Fourth, while there has been a large amount of research on long Covid, there needs to be sustained investment to expand our scientific understanding so better treatments and clinical management can be developed. Again, this has to be global, not just confined to high-income countries and WHO will continue to update the clinical management guidance which includes recommendations for rehabilitation so that clinicians and health professionals across the world have access to the latest science and data.

Finally, people with long Covid need care and support. For countries with Covid-specific clinics, waits are often lengthy so it's important to start integrating multi-disciplinary care into health systems as patients need a range of services. This includes, but is not limited to, health and care workers with expertise in neurology, rehabilitation, psychology, speech therapy and respiratory therapy. Delayed clinical care in patients with long Covid not only impacts their quality of life but the length of time they have symptoms.

Early in the pandemic, it was important for overwhelmed health systems to focus all of their life-saving efforts on patients presenting with acute infection. However, it is critical for governments to invest long-term in their health system and workers and make a plan now for dealing with long Covid. This plan should encompass, providing immediate access to antivirals to patients at high risk of serious disease, investing in research and sharing new tools and knowledge as they're identified to prevent, detect and treat patients more effectively. It also means supporting patients physical and mental health as well as providing financial support for those who are unable to work.

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HEADLINE	10/12 Day 231 of the Russia invasion
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/12/russia-ukraine-war-latest-what-we-know-on-day-231-of-the-invasion
GIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight people have been detained over the weekend's attack on the Crimea bridge, and Russia's security forces have named a senior figure from Ukraine as being behind them. A statement from the Federal Security Service (FSB) claimed "the organiser of the terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge was the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, its head Kyrylo Budanov, employees and agents. Currently, five citizens of Russia, three citizens of Ukraine and Armenia, who participated in the preparation of the crime, have been detained within the framework of the criminal case." • A senior Ukrainian official dismissed the investigation as "nonsense". "The whole activity of the FSB and Investigative Committee is nonsense," Ukraine's public broadcaster Suspilne cited interior minister spokesman Andriy Yusov as saying. He described the FSB and Investigative Committee as "fake structures that serve the Putin regime, so we will definitely not comment on their next statements". • The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has described developments at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP), which has lost off-site power, as "deeply worrying". Energoatom, the Ukrainian state-owned company that manages the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP) has accused Russian forces occupying it of refusing a convoy of company vehicles carrying diesel to refuel the plant's generators after shelling of a substation in the Dnipropetrovsk region caused the plant to lose power. • Pope Francis on Wednesday condemned Russia's "relentless bombings" of Ukrainian cities and appealed to "those who have the fate of the war in their hands" to stop. He was quoted as saying "My heart is always turned to the people of Ukraine, especially those living in places hit by the bombing". The pontiff prayed for an intercession that "may change the hearts of those who have the fate of the war in their hands, so that they may cease this wave of violence and rebuild peaceful coexistence".

- **Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, is a "rational actor who has miscalculated significantly,"** US president Joe Biden said in a clip of a CNN interview broadcast late on Tuesday.
- **Russia continued to attack key infrastructure in Ukraine with missile strikes on Tuesday.** Amid warnings from the UN and some Nato countries that Moscow [may be committing a war crime](#) with its continuing deadly blitz on civilian targets, [Russia's defence ministry confirmed](#) its troops continued to launch long-range airstrikes on Ukraine's energy and military infrastructure.
- **The leaders of the G7 condemned Russia's most recent missile attacks on cities across Ukraine "in the strongest possible terms"** and vowed to stand "firmly" with Kyiv "for as long as it takes".
- **Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, [asked G7 leaders to supply more air defence systems](#)** and for an international monitoring mission on the Belarusian border.
- **The French president, Emmanuel Macron, described Russia's attacks as "[a profound change in the nature of this war](#)".** During Russia's strikes in recent days, cruise missiles and armed drones [rained down on parks, playgrounds](#), power stations and other civilian targets.
- **Ukrainian authorities said on Tuesday they exhumed the bodies of dozens of people,** including civilians and a one-year-old baby, to determine the cause of death after the retreat of Russian troops from Lyman and Sviatohirsk, two recently liberated towns in the eastern Donetsk region.
- **Roughly 30% of Ukraine's energy infrastructure has been hit by Russia since Monday, [officials said](#).** As millions in Ukraine are facing blackouts due to the attacks, the government has urged civilians to cut their electricity use and not use domestic appliances such as ovens and washing machines.
- **The Kremlin has confirmed that [Putin will meet Turkish](#) president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,** on Thursday to discuss Ukraine.
- **Moscow would not turn down a meeting between Putin and Biden at the G20 meeting next month,** Russia's foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, said. [Moscow was open to talks with the west](#) on the Ukraine war but had yet to receive any "serious offers" to negotiate, Lavrov said in an interview on Russian state television.
- **Putin has told the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency that he is "open to dialogue"** on the Russian-occupied [Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant](#).
- **Meanwhile deputy head of the Zaporizhzhia power plant has been kidnapped by Russian forces,** Ukraine's state nuclear energy company Energoatom said. Valeriy Martynyuk was taken on Monday and is being detained in an unknown location, Energoatom [said in a post on Telegram](#).
- **Elon Musk [denied a report](#) that he spoke with Putin before tweeting a proposal to end the war in Ukraine** that would have seen territory permanently handed over to Russia.
- **Belarus' defence ministry said the joint deployment of forces with Russia on its borders is a defensive measure.** The moves were to [ensure "security" along the border](#) between Belarus and Ukraine, it claimed.
- **Russian strikes have damaged hundreds of cultural sites,** Zelenskiy said as he urged the UN cultural agency to expel Russia, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the Unesco World Heritage Committee.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Putin seeks to weaponize winter
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/11/lviv-braces-for-cold-times-as-putin-seeks-to-weaponise-winter
GIST	<p>There was scant attempt to sugarcoat the assessment. With the trams stilled, lights going down across the city and the mobile network intermittent, arguably there was little point in doing otherwise.</p> <p>"We have to brace ourselves for hard times," said Andriy Sadovyi, the mayor of Lviv, as he addressed local and international journalists in a building off the western Ukrainian city's cobbled Rynok Square.</p> <p>Winter was coming and with it "perhaps the worst-ever period for our country", the mayor said.</p>

For all that the missiles would continue to rain down it was the cold that the Russians believed could break the Ukrainian spirit. Stock up on fire wood, buy in heaters, insulate where you can, Sadovyi counselled. It was time for Ukrainians to resort to the “old-time methods”.

“We are in for hard weeks and months ahead. Four [electricity] substations in the region have been put out of operation and to bring them back into operation they need transformers that are not available. It is hard right now to predict what will happen tomorrow. We will do all we can to keep the medical facilities operating.”

Lviv, just 50 miles from the Polish border, has at times felt somewhat removed from Vladimir Putin’s war.

Direct attacks have been few and far between. Following the initial shock over the launch of the Russian president’s “special military operation”, the bars and restaurants had swiftly rediscovered the liveliness that one would expect of an old university town.

When air raid sirens would go off to warn that Russian missiles had been launched, destination unknown, the danger could be barely acknowledged at times. Spring gave way to a relatively care-free summer.

The attacks of Monday and Tuesday changed all that.

15 missiles rained down on electricity substations in the Lviv region on Monday as part of a country-wide assault on Ukraine’s critical infrastructure that killed 20 people.

Repairs were swiftly made here and the electricity and water supply restored to much of the city by Monday evening.

Then Tuesday morning came, and dozens more were fired into the city from aircraft and ships on the Black Sea.

Some were blown out of the sky by the Ukrainian air-to-ground defences but three solidly hit their target, wiping out two electricity substations in the suburbs, injuring one worker but posing a far more serious threat to the health of the wider city.

“Nothing remains of them to be entirely honest with you,” said Maksym Kozytskyy, head of the Lviv region’s military administration, of the two stations most badly hit. “I am asking people to save energy as much as you can. The lines we had repaired [on Monday] have been broken again today and 30% of the Lviv region is off the grid.”

The schools have been shut but officials are keen for retail to keep going. “Yesterday a lot of shops had to close down because they were off the grid,” Sadovyi said.

“But some kept their doors open because they had diesel generators and they wanted to prevent panic. I ask shopkeepers to do everything they can to keep the shops open.”

The mayor suggested that the attacks of the last 48 hours may even serve a purpose by snapping Lviv out of its complacency. “It is war – we have to be clear the enemy want to kill,” he said. “The last two days have taught us a good lesson, a sense of reality.”

The city’s residents have been put on notice that there is but a fortnight to get ready as the nights draw in and temperatures drop.

Yuri Blahin, 34, walking alongside his wife Vladislava, 33, on Rynok Square with five-year-old Diana on his shoulders, said he had bought a diesel generator but feared for keeping his young family warm.

	<p>Artem Levchenko, 26, said he wanted to get out of the country back to Poland where he had been studying before the war, but could not get a visa.</p> <p>The draughty state of the region's 6,000 bomb shelters has been raised as a particular concern.</p> <p>"I urge residents that all shelters should be equipped with a heater and fire wood," Sadovyi said.</p> <p>"It will save us from freezing. Any repairs [to the electricity grid] will need a day or two or three and we need to survive in the meantime. We need to survive the weapon of the enemy: which is cold, fear and destruction."</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Tacoma sets limits to homeless camping
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/tacoma-city-officials-to-vote-on-proposed-homeless-camping-ban#
GIST	<p>TACOMA, WA — Tacoma City Council voted to approve a proposal Tuesday to prohibit camping and storing personal belongings on public property within ten blocks of temporary shelters in the city.</p> <p>The ordinance passed 6-3.</p> <p>The ordinance was drafted in response to a sharp uptick in public health and safety concerns received from community members regarding these specific areas.</p> <p>"I do think this ordinance is off the mark. I think it's going to cause more harm than good," said Councilmember Keith Blocker, who cast one of the three dissenting votes.</p> <p>Even city leaders who supported the measure acknowledged deep reservations about its impacts.</p> <p>"This is an incredibly difficult situation," said Mayor Victoria Woodards, "a very incredible, difficult decision for me."</p> <p>District 1 Councilmember John Hines said ensuring public health and safety in neighborhoods where temporary shelters are currently located will be key if other neighborhoods are to consider partnering with the city in future efforts to expand shelter options.</p> <p>The city planned to consider a ban on camping on public property last year, but the proposal was nixed out of concern for the number of people with personal property on public lands.</p> <p>Councilmember Hines also expressed his ongoing commitment to the city's longer-term work to invest in permanent supportive and affordable housing, to examine zoning to allow for more housing types and to support strategies surrounding mental health and substance abuse treatment.</p> <p>City leaders said as of July, there are more than 4,000 people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County. Critics took to the podium to argue that a ban would only shuffle people around and never address the real issues of the lack of affordable housing and mental health care services.</p> <p>"We understand there are public safety issues. We understand there are real concerns out there with the encampments but we need real solutions, not sweeps," Ty Moore with Homes in Tacoma for All said.</p> <p>Several amendments were also approved. One is the inclusion of additional buffer zones around waterways, requiring that encampments be at least 200 feet away. The no-camping zones will be extended if the 10-block boundary cuts through a park or school campus.</p> <p>Another amendment requires extended efforts to get voluntary compliance from homeless people before encampments are forced to move. And there will be extensive data collection and analysis of how the ordinance is working.</p>

	<p>The ordinance will go into effect Nov. 14. Camping will be prohibited in a 10-block radius around public property where a temporary shelter is located.</p> <p>In its current form, it affects 10 locations around the city.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 High-risk sex offenders near UW Greek Row
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/13-sex-offenders-registered-near-uws-greek-row-some-students-say-this-is-concerning#
GIST	<p>Students, parents and an entire community are on edge as Seattle's University District grapples with a recent rash of disturbing crimes.</p> <p>In the most recent case, police are searching for a man accused of breaking into a sorority house near campus and assaulting a student early Sunday morning.</p> <p>That comes just days after the arrest in the brutal murder of a woman whose remains were found on school-owned property back in June and a week after a violent weekend in which four students were shot outside an area nightclub following an argument.</p> <p>To address the violence, Seattle police launched new emphasis patrols in the U-District late last week.</p> <p>Several community members said Tuesday that they were stunned to learn that multiple registered sex offenders live in the same block as the recent assault on a student inside her sorority house.</p> <p>In total, 13 registered sex offenders live in the same block and the majority poses a high degree of danger to the public and are considered high risk to re-offend.</p> <p>That confused some parents and students who asked whether it's legal.</p> <p>The Greek Row neighborhood is no different than many others throughout Washington. Sex offenders live in many neighborhoods from cities to the suburbs and rural communities, and they have that right if they are following the guidelines of their release. But they must register as a sex offender said Captain Tim Meyer with the King County Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>For Joanne, a parent whose daughter called 911 to alert police about Sunday's assault, it's another thing to be concerned about and aware of. She was at the sorority house Tuesday adding automatic locking devices to the doors.</p> <p>"Ten on this street and I did not know until Sunday, had no idea," said Joanne. The ten she is referring to are ten registered level 3 sex offenders.</p> <p>Joanne said she was stunned that the suspect got into the house and made his way to the bedroom of one of the students, who woke up to find him shirtless and kneeling over her bed. The student's father told KOMO News earlier this week the man allegedly pointed a gun at her, touched her inappropriately and ran off.</p> <p>Joanne said the incident prompted her, other parents and some students to search online records for the neighborhood. Their efforts revealed registered sex offenders living on the same block as the home where the assault happened.</p> <p>There is no known connection between the sex offenders and the assault or any of the recent rash of crime in the area, but it's another thing Joanne says parents and her daughter and other students have to worry about.</p>

KOMO News took the concerns of parents to law enforcement. A number of parents asked why sex offenders are living so close to students.

Meyer said he can't speak to the events on Greek Row, but in general, "Why don't we have this radius or halo around every place of instruction, colleges and university there is a reality that those simply don't exist," said Meyer. "We want to trust our courts and the department of corrections and believe people can change, their debt to society can be repaid, but we also know sex offenses come with always the risk of recidivism, so unlike other crimes sex offenders are monitored for a set period of time."

In King County, KOMO News counted ten level 3 sex offenders, the most likely to re-offend, and three level 2 all in the same block as Sunday's assault.

"Some of the onus is on us to go to the keyboard do that search and learn who is living among us," Meyer said.

Jovanna a sophomore told KOMO News she knows sex offenders are her neighbors, she knew it before she moved in. "I look stuff up I'm hyper-aware, being a female."

She added she's always locked her doors and kept her head on a swivel.

But most students were like Kelly, a UW senior shocked to learn that when she got her lease along 18th Ave, no one told her. She assumed incorrectly that it would have to be revealed.

"I don't understand that," said Kelly.

She had no idea the information was available online. She insists all the recent crime has got her extra cautious and careful.

"It makes me not want to go to class especially living on this street where everything is happening," said Kelly.

KOMO News reached out to the University of Washington to ask if they knew about the registered sex offenders in the area. In an email late Tuesday, a spokesperson shared this:
Under state law, sex offenders who are meeting the terms of their parole or release may reside where they choose, as long as they register. The University of Washington is aware that there are registered sex offenders living in the areas around the Seattle campus, and we understand this can cause concern in the community. The UW has no jurisdiction or ability to limit their proximity to campus. Anyone perceiving a threat or in an emergency should call 911 immediately. More information about sex offender registration in King County can be found here: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/sheriff/sex-offender-search.aspx>

The King County Sheriff's Office does verifications for registered sex offenders regularly. For level three's, they make site visits four times a year, twice for level two.

Any violators can face charges.

The county even has a system for homeless sex offenders they register weekly in person.

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HEADLINE	10/11 White House: get booster by Halloween
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/coronavirus/white-house-get-new-booster-by-halloween-for-safer-holidays-dr-ashish-jha-maximum-protection-covid-19-pandemic-challenging-virus-season-centers-for-disease-control-and-prevention#
GIST	The White House on Tuesday said eligible Americans should get the updated COVID-19 boosters by Halloween to have maximum protection against the coronavirus by Thanksgiving and the holidays, as it warned of a "challenging" virus season ahead.

Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House COVID-19 coordinator, said the U.S. has the tools, both from vaccines and treatments, to largely eliminate serious illness and death from the virus, but stressed that's only the case if people do their part.

"We are not helpless against these challenges," he said. "What happens this winter is up to us."

So far the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says only about 11.5 million Americans have [received the updated shots](#), which are meant to provide a boost of protection against both the original strain of COVID-19 and the BA.5 variant that is dominant around the world. Jha said studies suggest that if more Americans get the updated vaccines, "we could save hundreds of lives each day this winter."

More than 330 people die on average each day of COVID-19, according to CDC data, with the U.S. death toll standing at over 1.05 million.

Jha acknowledged the slower pace of vaccinations, saying, "we expected September to be a month where it would just start picking up." He added that the White House expects more Americans to get the updated boosters this month around the time when they get their annual flu shots. He also emphasized that they should look to get them soon to be protected when they gather with family and friends.

"I think people should get vaccinated before Halloween," he said.

Jha criticized Congress, which has refused the White House's \$22 billion budget request for virus response, saying that has kept the U.S. from building a stockpile of tests to use in the event of a new winter surge.

"You can't fight a deadly virus without resources," he said, "and congressional inaction is really costly."

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HEADLINE	10/11 IMF: global economic outlook deteriorating
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/imf-warns-global-economic-outlook-is-deteriorating-stubborn-inflation-restrictive-monetary-policy-geopolitical-instability-united-nations-financial-agency-interest-rates-cost-of-living-pressures#
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (TND) — In its updated outlook of global financial conditions, the International Monetary Fund described a daunting combination of stubborn inflation, restrictive monetary policy and geopolitical instability that could push the world into a financial crisis.</p> <p>"The global environment is fragile with storm clouds on the horizon," IMF financial counsellor Tobias Adrian wrote in a foreword of their October Global Financial Stability Report released Tuesday.</p> <p>The United Nations financial agency downgraded its growth projections for advanced economies since its July report. The agency now projects growth in the U.S. economy will decline from 5.7% in 2021 to 1.6% in 2022 and 1% in 2023. Growth for this year was revised down by 0.7 percentage point since July because of a contraction in second quarter gross domestic product.</p> <p>"In short, the worst is yet to come, and for many people 2023 will feel like a recession," IMF economic counsellor Pierre-Olivier said in the IMF's updated World Economic Outlook.</p> <p>The organization forecasts global inflation to reach 8.8% this year and decline to 6.5% next year — nowhere close to the Federal Reserve's target inflation rate of 2%.</p> <p>Though painful, the IMF encouraged central banks to stick to their plans for restrictive monetary policy, which include raising interest rates, to achieve price stability. The report also called on fiscal policymakers to "alleviate the cost-of-living pressures while maintaining a sufficiently tight stance aligned with monetary policy."</p>

	<p>So far this year, the Federal Open Market Committee has raised rates five times. Three of those have been historically large hikes of 75 basis points. The Fed also continues to reduce its balance sheet after pumping liquidity into the market during the pandemic.</p> <p>During remarks before the Economic Club of New York on Tuesday, Cleveland Fed president Loretta Mester said despite moderating demand and improvements to supply, inflation has not improved.</p> <p>"The month-to-month changes in the inflation measures have shown no real decline, so we cannot even say inflation has peaked yet, let alone that it is on a sustainable downward path to 2%," Mester said.</p> <p>Because of developments in Russia's war in Ukraine, Mester said, gas and energy prices could increase. She also expects the cost of services and shelter to remain high, keeping overall inflation elevated. Overall, Mester said she expects it will take a couple years for inflation to return to their 2% target.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 US hunts for Russia-style weapons
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/11/world/europe/ukraine-cyprus-arms-race.html
GIST	<p>The Russian strikes that hit civilian targets across Ukraine this week immediately brought new pledges by Kyiv's allies to send in more weapons and ammunition. The United States promised more air defense missile systems, and Germany said it would send similar defenses "in the next few days." The NATO chief declared that support to Ukraine's fight against Russia would continue "for as long as it takes."</p> <p>But for all of the assurances, there remains a problem. Kyiv also needs more of the Russian-style weapons that the Ukrainian military is trained to use, and the available global supply of them is running low.</p> <p>To find those weapons, the United States and other allies have been scouring the globe, looking for willing suppliers in a hunt that has revealed both the promise and pitfalls of unlocking stockpiles of Russian-standard and Soviet-style weapons for use by Ukraine.</p> <p>There have been some successes. Finland, which has long balanced the sensitivities of its Russian neighbor, is sending Ukraine some Soviet-style weapons, including ammunition and guns compatible with the AK-47 assault rifle. South Korea is supplying ballistic vests, helmets, medical equipment and other defense assistance.</p> <p>Others like Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Mexico, Colombia and Peru have received a recent visit from Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a painstaking, behind-the-scenes diplomatic campaign to countries that have demonstrated support for Ukraine but are still reluctant to supply lethal aid.</p> <p>And then there is Cyprus. It has presented a special window on the difficulties of keeping up with the urgent demand for arms that Ukraine's troops are burning through faster than can be supplied as they claw back large swaths of territory and push the Russians to retreat.</p> <p>Until this month, Cyprus had been under a U.S. arms embargo for 35 years, imposed to help tamp down tensions after a conflict left the island bitterly divided between a government backed by Greece and a portion still controlled by Turkey — both NATO members.</p> <p>In that time, Cyprus turned to the Soviet Union and then Russia for weapons and military equipment. Today its stockpile of at least 10 Tor and Buk missile systems that can down Russian aircraft, drones and cruise missiles could provide a bonanza for an embattled Ukrainian army.</p>

But the Cypriot government has made clear it wants new and better replacements, something that could antagonize Turkey and reignite an arms race in the still unresolved conflict. Even so, on Oct. 1, the Biden administration [formally lifted the embargo](#), allowing Cyprus to buy American weapons.

American officials said the move was several years in the making and broadly intended to pull Cyprus away from Russian influence. But one U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the delicate diplomacy, said Cyprus was now “a potential option” as a supplier to Ukraine.

Cyprus “would be ready to consider” transferring some of its weapons and ammunition to Ukraine if they were “replaced with other military apparatus of equal power and capabilities,” Marios Pelekanos, a government spokesman, said in a statement to The New York Times.

He cited numerous meetings with American officials in recent months, during which “we have also discussed this possibility.”

Already, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey [has pledged to reinforce his troops](#) in northern Cyprus with additional weapons as the U.S. embargo is lifted.

The State Department spokesman, Ned Price, said on Tuesday that “we welcome additional contributions to provide Ukraine with the continued support it needs to defend itself” but would not discuss diplomatic conversations with specific nations, including Cyprus.

On Monday, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine called on allies to speed air defense systems to his country as “currently the No. 1 priority.” Already, NATO nations have [committed to sending Ukraine](#) billions of dollars in sophisticated Western weapons — [including about \\$17 billion](#) from the United States alone.

Russia is responding by buying [artillery from North Korea](#) and, notably, [military drones from Iran](#), which have blitzed southern Ukrainian cities and last week struck a town about 50 miles outside Kyiv. Dozens of countries have sought to remain neutral, including China and India, which are [Russia’s two largest weapons customers](#) but which on Monday [renewed calls for de-escalation](#) after Moscow’s missile strikes.

Eastern European nations, many of which were once satellites of the Soviet Union but are now NATO members, have eagerly sent Russian-standard equipment to Ukraine since February: tanks and artillery munitions from the Czech Republic, howitzer guns from Estonia, helicopters from Latvia and Slovakia, and amphibious infantry combat vehicles and thousands of 122 mm-caliber Grad rockets from Poland.

As of Tuesday, the latest data available, [Poland was the fourth-largest contributor of military aid to Ukraine](#), following the United States, Britain and the European Union, according to a database of public commitments compiled by the German-based Kiel Institute. But Poland, like other Eastern European nations, cannot spare its remaining stockpile of Soviet-style weapons without risking its own defenses and wants to see other countries step up, a Polish defense official said.

[Talks among allies](#) to share parts, ammunition and other equipment, and to prod defense manufacturers to ramp up production are continuing, including this week at a high-level meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels. But weapons contracts can take months, if not years, to complete.

Jens Stoltenberg, the NATO secretary general, said on Tuesday that the defense ministers would be asked to decide how best to quickly replenish member states’ stockpiles while still providing Ukraine with a range of weapons — not just air defense systems, he said, but also more artillery, armored tanks and ammunition.

“They need almost everything, and allies are providing unprecedented support,” Mr. Stoltenberg said in Brussels.

A [possible blueprint](#) for helping Ukraine acquire more arms was provided in July by the Foundation of Defense of Democracies, a Washington think-tank, which identified 23 non-NATO nations that have a combined stockpile of more than 6,300 post-Soviet and Russian-standard weapons systems and ammunition, and have condemned Mr. Putin's invasion.

Among the potential suppliers, Cyprus stands out.

With its Russian-made rocket launchers, surface-to-air missiles, helicopters, tanks and armored vehicles, Cyprus holds "the very systems that Ukraine needs to support its counteroffensives, and to hold the territory that they retake — and, more broadly, to defeat Putin's invasion of Ukraine," said Bradley Bowman, a former U.S. Army officer and senior military expert at FDD who co-authored the analysis.

Before the embargo was lifted, Mr. Bowman noted, "even though there had been discussions, we could never seriously contemplate replacing these Russian-origin weapons, that Cyprus could transfer to Ukraine, with American systems."

"But now we can," Mr. Bowman said. He added, "We need to look under every possible rock."

Cypriot officials hailed the embargo's lifting as an important step toward strengthening ties with NATO and bolstering security in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

But, they said, it did not mean Cyprus was ready to send its Russian weapons to Ukraine.

"Given the serious security threats posed on a daily basis by the Turkish occupation forces, the current security architecture of Cyprus ought to remain intact," Mr. Pelekanos said.

Acknowledging the country's "legitimate security concerns," Mr. Bowman said the lifting of the arms embargo would also allow other Western nations to quickly transfer their American-made weapons to Cyprus without first obtaining approval from Washington. That, he said, could replenish Cyprus's arsenals with newer, NATO-compatible systems if it transferred its post-Soviet arms and ammunition to Ukraine.

At that point, Cyprus might be in a position to help — even if it remains unclear who might be willing to pull from their own arsenals to backfill the country.

Eventually, it is expected that Cyprus will phase out its current weapons with systems that are compatible with NATO, pulling away from Russia and manufacturers in other rogue states.

Yet defense contractors in the United States and Europe are already struggling to keep up with demand in weapons production — a process that can take years.

In the meantime, the U.S. official said, Ukrainian forces need the weapons "right now, more than ever."

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HEADLINE	10/11 NATO chief urges more weapons to Ukraine
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/10/11/world/russia-ukraine-war-news
GIST	<p>BRUSSELS — NATO's top official on Tuesday called on allies to step up arms supplies to the Ukrainians, especially sophisticated air-defense systems, a day after Russia rained rocket fire on 19 cities across Ukraine in a marked escalation of its assault on civilians.</p> <p>As missiles and rockets continued to strike Ukraine, though in smaller numbers than on Monday, Jens Stoltenberg, NATO's secretary general, said that Moscow's aerial attacks on civilian targets were "a sign of weakness" and that Ukraine would be better able to deter them if its existing weaponry was expanded.</p> <p>"These air-defense systems are making a difference because many of the incoming missiles were actually shot down by Ukrainian air-defense systems provided by NATO allies," he said.</p>

Mr. Stoltenberg's comments came as Western leaders, outraged by the escalation of Russian hostilities in Ukraine, held a virtual emergency meeting of the Group of 7 industrialized nations. They pledged "undeterred and steadfast" financial and military support for Ukraine. The White House also said it would expedite delivery of an advanced air-defense system.

The G7 leaders also warned Russia of "severe consequences" if it used chemical, biological or nuclear weapons in the conflict.

Officials in Ukraine, renewing their pleas for weaponry that would allow them to build "an air shield for Ukraine," offered an accounting of what Russian armaments had struck the country in the latest bombardment — and how many had been knocked from the skies.

In the past two days, Ukraine's air-defense forces have shot down at least 66 cruise missiles out of more than 120, according to the Ukrainian General Staff, and have destroyed all but eight of the cruise missiles fired at Ukraine on Tuesday alone. During this period, Ukrainian air defenses have also shot down 40 so-called kamikaze drones, primarily the Iranian-built Shahed-136.

"When Ukraine receives a sufficient number of modern and effective air-defense systems, the key element of Russian terror — missile strikes — will cease to work," Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, told the G7 leaders.

Military experts say the Ukrainians' rate of shooting down missiles is good, especially given the age and sparsity of Ukraine's equipment. They also said that whatever shortcomings in Kyiv's arsenal were exposed by the Russian barrage over the past few days, it also raised questions about Moscow's arsenal.

Though the attacks killed at least 19 people across Ukraine and devastated cities, the death count was surprisingly low given the [heavy toll](#) civilians have paid in the war. That has renewed questions about the quantity and quality of Russia's weapons and about the capacity of its forces to carry out President Vladimir V. Putin's military objectives.

Since the war began, many of Russia's attacks have been long-range strikes relying on [outdated, unguided and imprecise missiles](#), including some from the Soviet era. That suggests that Moscow's most sophisticated weapons are in short supply, say Ukrainian, Western and Russian analysts. The relatively modest impact of the latest bombardment reinforced those suspicions.

The attacks on Monday, nevertheless, ratcheted up the pressure on Ukraine's allies to do more to support Kyiv. The pressure, including calls from Congress and Ukrainian leaders, comes as Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III and Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are to meet in Brussels this week with fellow NATO defense officials and representatives from some 50 countries supporting Ukraine.

"We are now shifting again to air defense," Julianne Smith, the American ambassador to NATO, told reporters in a conference call on Tuesday.

Ukraine has an extensive network of local air defenses that has been largely effective at knocking down Russian missiles and preventing the Russian air force from gaining dominance over Ukrainian skies. But Ukraine's air defense relies mainly on older, Soviet model S-300 systems, and they cannot stop all incoming Russian attacks.

Kyiv has repeatedly requested more advanced systems to protect cities and civilian infrastructure. "Air defense is currently the No. 1 priority in our defense cooperation," Mr. Zelensky said on Monday, after speaking to President Biden.

A big question is how the Biden administration can speed the deployment of an air-defense system that the United States uses to help defend the White House and the American Capitol.

A White House spokesman said on Tuesday that the administration was working to deliver to Ukraine two of the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems, known as NASAMs. The systems would provide short- to medium-range coverage over 30 to 50 kilometers (about 18 to 30 miles).

“We are certainly interested in expediting the delivery of NASAMs,” John F. Kirby, the spokesman for the National Security Council, told reporters.

Representative Elissa B. Slotkin, a Michigan Democrat and former C.I.A. analyst, said that in addition to the NASAM systems, the Pentagon should also consider sending to Ukraine advanced Patriot antimissile systems and a specific weapons system for countering rockets, artillery and mortars that is known as C-RAM.

“The need is urgent given the scale of these attacks,” Ms. Slotkin said. “Providing these systems is a defensive — not escalatory — step, and our European friends need to step up along with us to get the Ukrainians what they need.”

Both systems, however, are in high demand by American military forces around the world. Dispatching them to Ukraine would most likely meet resistance from senior commanders, and it would take extensive time to train the Ukrainian operators.

In the past few days, Ukrainian officials say, Russian forces have used a mix of weapons, including X-101, X-555 and Kalibr cruise missiles fired from ships in the Black Sea and from strategic bombers like the Tu-95.

“It’s a complex array of threats that can challenge or overwhelm any air defense system if concentrated enough,” said Frederick W. Kagan, an expert on the Russian military who leads the Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute.

Ukraine does not have an integrated nationwide missile-warning system, relying instead on air defenses near major population centers and major military centers. To help provide some warning of inbound threats, U.S. Air Force analysts have been sharing real-time information about Russian-launched missiles and other attacks with their Ukrainian counterparts.

Mr. Putin said he had launched the latest bombardment in response to an attack on the Kerch Strait Bridge linking Russia to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014. Ukrainian officials noted that Moscow had not even made a pretense of selecting military targets that would advance its aim on the battlefields, where it is suffering losses.

That raised questions about why Moscow would squander its dwindling weaponry on nonmilitary sites.

“Part of the reason for the disparate strikes across the country, beyond an attempt at reprisal for the Kerch Bridge attack, is an intentional Russian attempt to keep this a nationwide conflict and to prevent Ukrainians from feeling a sense of normalcy,” said Michael Kofman, director of Russia studies at C.N.A., a defense research institute in Arlington, Va.

“While the Russian military may be flagging on the battlefield, it appears the Kremlin holds a long-term economic strategy that this could be part of.”

The strikes on Ukraine knocked out waterworks and power stations — temporarily plunging communities into darkness — and quickly drew widespread condemnation. On Tuesday, the United Nations’ Human Rights Office said the attacks might have amounted to war crimes.

The location and timing of the attacks, which occurred as people were going to work and taking children to school, were “particularly shocking,” said Ravina Shamdasani, a spokeswoman for the U.N. office in Geneva.

	<p>And some of the facilities targeted may be essential to the survival of civilians in the winter, particularly older people and those with disabilities who are trapped in their homes, she said.</p> <p>“This is unconscionable,” Ms. Shamdasani said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Russia attacks reveal weapons status?
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/11/world/europe/russia-missiles-weapons-stockpile.html
GIST	<p>The Russian missile and drone attacks that killed at least 19 people across Ukraine on Monday were traumatic and wide-ranging, but they were not as deadly as they could have been, in the context of a war that has included widespread civilian killing.</p> <p>That has renewed questions over the quality of Russia’s weapons and about the capacity of its forces to carry out President Vladimir V. Putin’s military designs.</p> <p>Ian Storey, a senior fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore, said it could be a sign that Russia’s guided missiles are not very effective, or that it is running short of precision munitions. Most of the missiles targeted energy and other civilian services, in what Mr. Putin said was retaliation for a blast on Russia’s bridge to occupied Crimea.</p> <p>“Perhaps it was Putin’s way of sending a warning shot across Ukraine’s bow: If you attack our infrastructure, we will ramp up attacks on your cities,” Mr. Storey said. But he and other experts acknowledged that much about Russia’s weapons arsenal remains unclear.</p> <p>Here is some of what we know:</p> <p>Russia may be running low on sophisticated missiles.</p> <p>Many of Russia’s attacks — increasingly aimed at civilian targets — have been long-range strikes that used outdated, unguided and imprecise missiles, including some from the Soviet era. Ukrainian, Western and Russian analysts have said that the attacks appear to suggest that Russia is running low on its most sophisticated weapons.</p> <p>Western intelligence officials say that Russia used up many of its most accurate weapons, including cruise missiles and certain ballistic missiles, in the early days of the invasion. Russia’s arms industry has long relied heavily on imported electronic parts. As a result, analysts say, sanctions and export controls appear to have limited the Kremlin’s ability to restock its supplies, leaving it to rely more on unguided munitions.</p> <p>Experts said that by using dozens of precision missiles against civilian targets, Russia would have fewer to use on the battlefield as it faces Ukrainian counteroffensives in the east and south.</p> <p>“Given how they are strapped in terms of resources and military materiel, it is unlikely that Russia can maintain the combat tempo it exhibited on Monday,” said Ridzwan Rahmat, the principal defense analyst at Janes, based in Singapore.</p> <p>It is increasingly turning to Iran and North Korea for supplies.</p> <p>Russia has been buying military drones from Iran and, according to intelligence sources, artillery shells and rockets from North Korea. Analysts see both developments as a further sign that sanctions have hampered Russia’s military supply lines.</p> <p>Iran has confirmed that a drone deal with Russia was part of a military agreement that predated the war, and Iranian-made drones have been spotted in the skies above Ukraine more frequently. Ukraine’s military said that of the 24 drones Russia used in the attacks on Monday, more than half were Iranian.</p>

Ukrainian soldiers have said that the [Iranian drones](#) — which carry a payload of about 80 pounds and are self-destructing — are effective battlefield weapons.

There is no hard evidence of Russia having purchased North Korean weapons, Mr. Storey said. But if true, he added, “it’s a sign of desperation.”

Russia’s nuclear weapons remain a threat, though it’s unclear whether the Kremlin will use them.

Russia has a large supply of tactical nuclear weapons — probably [about 2,000](#), far more than the roughly 100 that NATO has positioned around Europe. In recent weeks, Mr. Putin has raised the prospect of using nuclear weapons to hold onto his tenuous territorial gains in Ukraine.

Whether he actually would use them despite [the huge risks](#) — both to Ukraine and to Russia and the wider region — is another story.

Senior U.S. officials say they have not seen any evidence in recent days of Russia’s moving its nuclear assets. And on Monday, Dmitri S. Peskov, the Kremlin’s spokesman, dismissed speculation that Russia would use nuclear weapons in response to the Crimea attack as “completely incorrect.”

Russian missiles have been vulnerable to Ukrainian air defenses.

The relatively low casualty toll on Monday, Mr. Storey said, was partly a result of Ukraine’s ability to shoot down some Russian missiles using air defenses that have remained largely intact throughout the war.

As of Tuesday, Ukraine’s Defense Ministry said that its forces had shot down [about 300 Russian cruise missiles](#) since February. It was not possible to confirm that tally. The total number of Russian missiles fired during the war is believed to be in the thousands.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Puget Sound driest October since 1940s
SOURCE	https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/weather-news/article267127201.html
GIST	<p>We’re only 10 days in, but so far October is proving to be the driest since the 1940s, according to the National Weather Service. No measurable precipitation has fallen in the Puget Sound region as of Monday.</p> <p>Along with that deficit of rain, daily high-temperature records have been falling across the region, according to Kayla Mazurkiewicz, a National Weather Service forecaster. On Friday, Seattle hit 77 degrees.</p> <p>Olympia hit 81 Oct. 2, and has reached into the upper 70s a few days since. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15-16, are expected to reach 77 and 76 degrees.</p> <p>“The six-day outlook, 10-day outlook seems to have more above average temperatures, even the eight to 14-day outlook,” Mazurkiewicz said.</p> <p>Persistent high pressure over the region has been keeping storm systems at bay for at least a month.</p> <p>“It just keeps rebuilding over the area,” said Weather Service meteorologist Carly Kovacik.</p> <p>AIR QUALITY</p> <p>The absence of rain has prolonged the wildfire season. The Bolt Creek Fire has been burning just north of the Stevens Pass Highway (U.S. 2) in the Cascades for a month. It’s consumed over 13,000 acres and is only 36 percent contained.</p> <p>The Bolt and two other fires in the Cascades are contributing to smoky skies in Western Washington. On Tuesday, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency labeled Pierce County air as moderately unhealthy, particularly for people sensitive to air quality. However, Thurston County’s air quality was listed as good.</p>

	<p>It's not going to get better anytime soon.</p> <p>"More high pressure and dry weather this week means more smoke impacts expected," the agency advised.</p> <p>DROUGHT</p> <p>Most of Western Washington is now in a drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. All of the state falls into the "abnormally dry" category. The impacts are expected to be short-term.</p> <p>Farther south, parts of Oregon and California are experiencing extreme and exceptional drought levels — the highest categories the Drought Monitor assigns. Agricultural and hydrological impacts to those states could be long lasting.</p> <p>While the rain forecast is grim in the short term, the Climate Prediction Center is calling for above-average precipitation in Washington by the end of 2022.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Lawsuit: wildfires retardant drops pollution
SOURCE	https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/US-agency-sued-over-pollution-from-retardant-17502569.php
GIST	<p>BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — An environmental group filed a lawsuit Tuesday against U.S. Forest Service officials that alleges they polluted waterways during their campaigns against wildfires by inadvertently dropping large volumes of chemical flame retardant into streams.</p> <p>Government data released earlier this year found aircraft operated or contracted by the Forest Service dropped more than 760,000 gallons (3.5 million liters) of fire retardant directly onto streams and other waterways between 2012 and 2019.</p> <p>The main ingredients in fire retardant are inorganic fertilizers and salts that can be harmful to some fish, frogs, crustaceans and other aquatic species.</p> <p>The lawsuit alleges the continued use of retardant from aircraft violates the Clean Water Act.</p> <p>It requests a judge to declare the pollution illegal, and was filed in U.S. District Court in Montana by Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.</p> <p>"It's simply too toxic at the levels used fighting fires," said Andy Stahl, the Eugene Oregon-based group's executive director.</p> <p>Forest Service officials in recent years have sought to avoid polluting streams during their fights against wildfires by imposing buffer zones around waterways where drops are restricted. Under a 2011 government decision, fire retardant may only be applied in designated "avoidance areas" where human life or public safety is threatened and retardant could help.</p> <p>Officials in February proposed continuing the aerial retardant program with minor changes. A final decision is pending.</p> <p>A government study accompanying the proposal determined that misapplied retardant landing n avoidance areas was likely to adversely affect dozens of imperiled species, including crawfish, spotted owls and fish such as shiners and suckers. The study was done in response to new data about retardant that's misapplied, changes in the status of some affected species and changes in avoidance areas.</p> <p>Forest Service spokesperson Wade Muehlhof said it was agency practice not to comment on active litigation.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Seattle lifts Covid emergency at end of Oct.
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/city-of-seattle-to-lift-covid-emergency-at-the-end-of-october/
GIST	<p>After more than 2½ years, the city of Seattle will end its COVID-19 emergency proclamation at the end of the month, ending certain renter and worker protections.</p> <p>Mayor Bruce Harrell announced Tuesday that Seattle will lift its residual COVID emergency order to align with Gov. Jay Inslee’s decision to end the statewide state of emergency on Oct. 31. “While the impacts of the pandemic continue to be felt by our neighbors and communities, it is thanks to our city’s strong response — including our high vaccination rate and strong health care system — that we can continue moving toward recovery and revitalization,” Harrell said in a news release. “We will continue to follow the recommendations of public health experts and science leaders to support the safety and well-being of our communities.”</p> <p>The remaining policies tied to the emergency order will end on or after Nov. 1, and “others will be phased out over time.”</p> <p>Some policies affected by the change include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A citywide requirement for property owners to “negotiate payment plans to limit evictions and limits on commercial-tenant personal liability” will end six months after the end of the emergency proclamation, or May 1, 2023. • Hazard pay for food-delivery gig workers — established by ordinance — will end Nov. 1. Paid sick leave for delivery and transportation gig workers is also set to end six months after the order, but will be made permanent for transportation workers on January 1, 2023, under state law. <p>Harrell had already signaled his intentions of ending pandemic-era policies, having lifted masking and other practical COVID precautions in city buildings, which he reopened earlier this year. He also required most employees to return to in-person work this spring.</p> <p>The city’s vaccine requirement for contractors and staff will remain intact and is unaffected by the new order, according to the mayor’s office.</p> <p>When Harrell indicated to City Council members this summer that the end of the emergency order was near, council central staff identified more than a dozen policies that would expire at or after the end of the order.</p> <p>Since then, the council has made permanent a 15% cap on delivery fees, which would have ended after the order was lifted.</p> <p>At Harrell’s request, council also ended hazard pay for grocery workers before the emergency order would have ended the program.</p> <p>While Harrell also ended eviction moratoriums earlier this year, protections that allowed those facing eviction due to nonpayment will end when the order is lifted. The requirement for landlords to provide payment plans for past-due rent will continue for six months after the end of the order.</p> <p>The mayor’s office said Tuesday that they will continue to monitor local case data to “remain vigilant for future waves and variants.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Will Washington ‘fall back’ next month?
SOURCE	https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/daylight-saving-time-will-washington-fall-back-next-month/R5WILSRJAZDUVAZGREPN2KCH4U/
GIST	SEATTLE — In 2019, Gov. Jay Inslee signed a bill into law to keep Washington in daylight saving time year-round.

	<p>Yet the state has continued to set its clocks back when DST ends each November.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>While federal law allows states to opt into standard time permanently, the reverse is not allowed without federal action.</p> <p>Congress must grant the state a federal waiver or the U.S. Secretary of Transportation must approve Washington's move before the state can stay on DST for good.</p> <p>On March 15, the Senate passed the Sunshine Protection Act of 2021, which would make daylight saving time permanent on Nov. 5, 2023, <i>if</i> approved by the House and the president.</p> <p>We're still waiting for that to happen. The bill was sent to the House, but there has been no movement since then.</p> <p>Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, Nov. 6.</p> <p>Unless something changes by then, you'll still need to set your clocks back an hour.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/12 Russia: 8 held in Crimea bridge attack
SOURCE	https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63225947
GIST	<p>Russia says it has detained eight people in connection with Saturday's explosion on a key bridge linking Russia to Crimea.</p> <p>Its FSB security service said five of those held were Russians, while the others were Ukrainian and Armenian.</p> <p>It says Kyiv was behind the attack but a Ukrainian official described Russia's investigation as "nonsense".</p> <p>The news came as at least seven people were reported killed in an attack on a market in the eastern town of Avdiivka.</p> <p>Donetsk regional military head Pavlo Kyrylenko said the strike took place at a busy time, adding that at least eight others were injured.</p> <p>He advised all residents of the region, which is partly Russian-occupied, to evacuate.</p> <p>Elsewhere, three people, including a six-year-old girl, were seriously injured by shelling in Nikopol, in Dnipro region, a Ukrainian presidential spokesman said.</p> <p>Ukraine's Emergency Ministry reported several S-300 missiles had fallen in and around Zaporizhzhia, with one destroying a residential building in a suburb. It said a family were pulled from the wreckage.</p> <p>Meanwhile the BBC's Hugo Bachega in Kyiv said five explosions had been heard in Kherson, one of the largest cities under Russian occupation, while there were unconfirmed reports that the air defence system in the city had been activated.</p> <p>He said it was not clear what had triggered the explosions.</p> <p>Ukraine's military said its troops were continuing their advance in the region, capturing another five settlements.</p>

'Fake structures'

The blast on the Crimea Bridge was a powerful symbolic blow to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who opened the bridge in 2018, four years after Russia's annexation of Crimea.

President Putin called it an "act of terrorism" aimed at destroying a critically important piece of Russia's civil infrastructure.

FSB officials said the blast was organised by "the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, its head Kyrylo Budanov, its staff and agents".

They alleged the explosives had been hidden in rolls of plastic film and taken on a roundabout route from the Ukrainian port of Odesa - first by sea to Bulgaria, then Georgia, and then driven by lorry overland into Russia via Armenia.

But a spokesman for the directorate, Andriy Yusov, rubbished the Russian accusations.

"All the activities of the FSB and [Russia's] Investigative Committee are nonsense," he told Ukrainian media. "They are fake structures which serve the Putin regime, so we're definitely not going to comment on their latest announcements."

Russian forces retaliated on Monday with a wave of missile strikes across the country, including on central Kyiv, killing 19 people.

Asked by the BBC on Wednesday whether the aims of Russia's special military operation - what Moscow calls its invasion - remained the same, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said they were "exactly the same".

"These goals only become more relevant against the backdrop of the actions of the Ukrainian regime," he said.

In February when he launched the invasion, Mr Putin called for the "demilitarisation and denazification" of Ukraine, terms he uses for the overthrow of the Ukrainian authorities, which Moscow considers "fascist".

Following more strikes on Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged countries to hit Moscow with more sanctions in response to "a new wave of terror".

The calls came after he met the G7 group of nations for emergency virtual talks on Tuesday.

The bloc - which consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and US - promised to continue providing "financial, humanitarian, military, diplomatic and legal" support to his country "for as long as it takes".

Nato also said it would stand with Ukraine for as long as necessary, as ministers gather for two days of talks in Brussels.

The bloc's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance needed to scale up its provision of air defence to Ukraine, with both long-and short-range systems to cope with ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Who will buy \$31T US debt, at what price?
SOURCE	https://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-questions-are-swirling-about-who-will-buy-more-than-31-trillion-of-u-s-debt-and-at-what-price-11665507637

GIST

For the first time ever, U.S. national debt crossed above [\\$31 trillion](#) this month, at a time when the Federal Reserve is in retreat from buying government debt and foreign investors' interest in it is waning.

With the largest players out of the picture, Treasuries are now in search of another reliable group of buyers. There's little doubt that the securities will eventually end up in someone's hands, according to strategist Matthew Hornbach at Morgan Stanley. The bigger question, he says, is what price those securities will then be bought and sold at via marginal players.

The [absence of major buyers](#) for Treasuries is just another source of worry on the list of concerns plaguing the U.S. government-bond market. The market, ordinarily the world's deepest and most liquid fixed-income market, is in fact facing thinning liquidity — which a number of traders, academics, and bond-market gurus say could [create a crisis](#). In addition, the Treasury market's [U.K. counterpart](#) has experienced recent wild selloffs that have led to Bank of England interventions and raised fears of a spillover into U.S. markets.

“A wide variety of actors in the economy purchase US Treasuries. Whether the buyers are commercial banks, asset managers, or US households, the Treasury securities issued by the government will be purchased by someone,” Hornbach wrote in a note Tuesday. The more relevant question for investors at large “is not who will buy the securities, but at what price?”

Falling bond prices translate into higher Treasury yields and, right now, those yields are either above or not far from 4% — levels which haven't been seen in more than a decade. Theoretically, further declines in bond prices would push yields even higher, denting the appeal of risky assets like stocks, at a time when some market participants have put the idea of [an almost 5%](#) fed-funds rate target on the radar. Growing expectations for a 5% fed-funds rate target would likely push Treasury yields toward 5%.

Over the last 30 years or more, the single most important factor that determined the level of Treasury yields — which move in the opposite direction of prices — has been the Fed since its interest-rate policy and forward guidance drives expectations, Hornbach said.

Now that the central bank is hiking interest rates at the fastest pace in decades to contain rampant inflation, it's also shrinking its balance sheet after putting an end to bond purchases earlier this year — all with the intent of tightening financial conditions.

Meanwhile, foreign investors — led by those in Japan and China, which paved the way for the rest of the world to attain sizable positions in Treasuries from 2001 through 2010 — have been consistently reducing their U.S. government-bond holdings since 2014, according to the Morgan Stanley strategist.

Data provided by Barclays [BARC, -4.00%](#) on Tuesday paints a negative picture overall for U.S. fixed-income markets. In sum, it showed that bond funds saw a rise in outflows during the week that ended on Oct. 5, just as foreign custody holdings of Treasuries at the Fed dropped.

On Tuesday, traders returned from the Columbus Day holiday that shut the U.S. bond market in the previous session. Two- [TMUBMUSD02Y, 4.299%](#) and 10-year U.S. bond yields [TMUBMUSD10Y, 3.956%](#) advanced to two-week highs on Tuesday, while the 30-year [TMUBMUSD30Y, 3.940%](#) reached its highest level since 2014. Dow industrials ended up by 0.1%, while the S&P 500 [SPX, -0.65%](#) and Nasdaq Composite finished lower.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Putin hails UAE ties: regional stability
SOURCE	https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/11/russia-putin-hails-ties-meets-uae-president

GIST	<p>Russian President Vladimir Putin has hailed his country's ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during a meeting with the Gulf state's leader, and welcomed a recent decision by oil-producing nations to limit production as key to stabilising the global energy market.</p> <p>Speaking on Tuesday at the start of his talks in Saint Petersburg with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MBZ), Putin described relations between the two countries as "an important factor of stability" in the region and the world "despite all the difficulties that exist in the international relations today".</p> <p>The Russian leader noted MBZ's support for the decision last week of the OPEC+ group that includes Russia to slash oil production by two million barrels a day, despite pressure by the United States and other countries.</p> <p>"Our decisions ... aren't directed against anyone," Putin said.</p> <p>"Our actions are aimed at ensuring stability in global energy markets to make both consumers of energy resources and those who deal with production and supplies feel calm, stability and confidence, to help balance supply and demand."</p> <p>The decision by OPEC+ to slash production in order to shore up prices has angered Western countries, where many saw it as a move that would help Putin finance Russia's military efforts in Ukraine. The production cut also risked saddling US President Joe Biden and Democrats with rising petrol prices just before the critical midterm US elections.</p> <p>The UAE has maintained close business ties with Russia and sought to refrain from joining the sanctions imposed by the US and other Western allies in response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.</p> <p>Meanwhile, UAE state news agency WAM said that MBZ, during his meeting with Putin, "affirmed" his country's aim to contribute to "strengthening the foundations of global peace and stability", as well as to "reduce tensions and find diplomatic solutions to crises" in situations such as the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>The two leaders "reviewed a number of regional and international issues and developments of common concern", WAM said.</p> <p>This was reiterated in a Twitter post, where the UAE leader said about his meeting with Putin: "We discussed several issues of mutual concern, including the Ukraine crisis, and the importance of engaging in dialogue to reduce tensions and arrive at a diplomatic solution."</p> <p>For his part, Putin hailed MBZ for mediation efforts that helped solve some "really sensitive humanitarian issues" in Ukraine.</p> <p>"I'm aware of your concern about the development of the situation and your desire to contribute to the settlement of all disputed issues, including today's crisis in Ukraine," Putin said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Fla. homes underwater thru Thanksgiving?
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/11/weather/florida-flooding-st-johns-hurricane-ian-climate/index.html
GIST	<p>Hundreds of homes in central Florida are still submerged in floodwater as the St. Johns – a notoriously lazy river on the east side of the peninsula – lethargically drains the historic rainfall that Hurricane Ian dropped nearly two weeks ago.</p> <p>The river is going to spend at least the next week at a higher level than it's been in nearly 60 years, forecasts show, and the National Weather Service warns that water could stay above flood stage through Thanksgiving.</p>

In Seminole County northeast of Orlando, upwards of 400 homes are “inaccessible” due to flooding, according to county planning manager Steven Lerner. The city of Geneva, which is tucked into a bend in the river and between two lakes, is particularly inundated.

“This area historically floods, and many residents stick it out” in their homes, Lerner told CNN in a phone interview. Lerner was not sure how many residents may have already left because of the flooding.

The St. Johns River begins southeast of Orlando and flows north through dozens of cities on the east side of the Florida Peninsula before it drains into the Atlantic Ocean in Jacksonville.

The river flows across 300 miles, yet only drops around 30 feet – making this river one of the slowest in the world, according to Scott Kelly, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Melbourne.

“It is a very, very lazy river,” Kelly told CNN. “Very slow moving.”

Kelly suspects the flooding could go on “perhaps for a couple of months,” and officials expect this slow-moving disaster to creep north over the next few weeks.

The water in Geneva “will eventually move to the Astor area,” Lerner said. “It’s a very slow trickle process.”

Astor is an unincorporated community in Lake County and is on the west side of the river, just south of Lake George. Lerner said there is usually a two-week delay for water to flow from Geneva to Astor; so they should see the water level rise soon.

But already in DeLand – between Geneva and Astor – drone imagery shows homes and businesses inundated by dark brown water that has pushed beyond the river’s banks.

“Geneva ... DeLand and Astor have all seen record flooding with this event,” Kelly told CNN. “So this is not something anyone has seen at least in the last 70 years.”

Hurricane Ian dumped as much as 20 inches of rain on this part of Florida nearly two weeks ago – a tremendous amount of rain that is becoming more common as the planet warms. Scientists have shown that warmer air can hold more moisture, pushing hurricanes to produce harder rainfall.

Ian’s rainfall was [at least 10% higher](#) because of human-caused climate change, according to a rapid analysis by scientists at Stony Brook University and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The National Weather Service expects more rain in the region over the next few days as a cold front pushes through Florida. But Kelly said it won’t push the river to rise any further than it already is.

“It’s going to probably freak people out because it’s going to start raining again,” Kelly said. “It will be more spotty showers and should not have a significant impact on the river level.

Now, forecasters are mostly concerned about preparing people for weeks of flooding.

“We’re not sure that people understand fully that this river is not going to go down very quickly,” said Kelly. “And so, yes, it’s crested in most places but it’s going to stay near or at that crest for many days and we don’t think people are prepared mentally for that.”

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HEADLINE	10/12 Ukraine: 30% of energy sector hit
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/russia-ukraine-war-news-10-12-22#h_fd85c5e58b6dcf353ae9f52338a9fbc

GIST	<p>About 30% of energy infrastructure in Ukraine has been hit by Russian missiles since Monday, Ukraine's Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko said Tuesday.</p> <p>The minister told CNN that this was the “first time from the beginning of the war” that Russia has “dramatically targeted” energy infrastructure.</p> <p>He said one reason is because Ukrainian electricity exports to Europe “helps European countries to save on Russian gas and coal,” adding that Ukraine is trying “to reconnect quickly from the other sources.”</p> <p>On Monday, the Ukrainian government urged people across the country to “limit” their energy use. Asked whether Ukraine would receive extra energy from Europe, Halushchenko said that was “one of the options on the table.”</p> <p>The minister said the Ukrainian energy system “is still stable,” but called on partners to provide “air protection systems which really could help us to protect our infrastructure.”</p> <p>“We send this message to our partners: we need to protect the sky,” he said. “Russians they are not playing on some games on international laws. They don't care about any kind of international agreements or conventions.”</p> <p>The Russian Defense Ministry on Tuesday confirmed it is targeting Ukrainian military and energy facilities in attacks.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Fla. homeowners flood insurance nightmare
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/hurricane-ian-florida-flood-insurance-nightmare-homeowners-rcna51514
GIST	<p>Hurricane Ian's storm surge brought numerous feet of water into homes on Florida's west coast, and left behind mold, muck, mud and a flood insurance nightmare for residents who want to rebuild.</p> <p>Many Floridians who suffered extensive flooding did not carry a separate flood insurance policy to cover the damage caused by the deadly storm. It's left homeowners — and even renters — with a hefty and, possibly, life-changing expense that could decide whether they are rendered homeless.</p> <p>Susan Cavanaugh and her two kids are living through that ordeal after the first floor of their home on Sanibel Island, where all three live and work, was engulfed by the storm surge. While going through a costly divorce earlier this year, Cavanaugh's flood insurance coverage lapsed.</p> <p>Now she doesn't know how to get her family back into their home without an insurance check to pay for contractors and building materials.</p> <p>“I can only do so much as a single mom,” said Cavanaugh, who is staying in a motel and is unsure where to live next. “We just want to go back to the house. It's been deemed structurally sound, but we have to get it back online and it's not just a cosmetic issue. It's going to take blood, sweat and tears and it's going to take a lot of muscle and a lot of work to get there.”</p> <p>Sanibel Island last month suffered a direct hit from the Category 4 storm and the surge of water, up to 15 feet in some places, it brought from the gulf into people's homes. The community remains inaccessible by car, forcing many to pay boat captains to ferry them to begin the cleanup.</p> <p>Cavanaugh is not alone in facing flood damage without the backing of insurance coverage. Many people in the small coastal community, which faces the Gulf of Mexico southwest of Fort Myers, did not have flood insurance coverage.</p>

What's more, Sanibel Island is a microcosm of a greater insurance challenge facing Florida and the country.

Only about 18.5% of homes in Florida counties that faced a mandatory or voluntary evacuation order the evening before Hurricane Ian landed had a flood insurance policy with the National Flood Insurance Program, the federal government program administered by FEMA, according to an analysis conducted by the risk management consulting firm Milliman. Even in designated flood hazard zones within those counties, fewer than half of the homes had a policy on file.

It appears that, despite an increased occurrence of devastating flood events, a declining percentage of people nationwide have flood insurance policies. The number of policies maintained by the National Flood Insurance Program has declined by nearly 700,000 since 2008, according to data acquired from the federal agency.

“There are many factors that influence this drop in policyholders, including the economic impact of the pandemic, the housing market, affordability, or purchasing flood insurance from the private market,” David Maurstad, the senior executive of the National Flood Insurance Program, said in a statement.

He said that FEMA “continues to market the flood insurance product throughout the country” in an effort “to increase the number of properties covered by flood insurance.” Currently about 5 million policies are under the National Flood Insurance Program, which was created in the 1960s because the private insurance market increasingly declined to cover flood events.

It’s an expensive undertaking for the federal government. Since 2008, the program has paid out \$40.1 billion to slightly more than 910,000 claims, according to FEMA’s data, and the agency still owes about \$20 billion to the U.S. Treasury after borrowing funds to pay out many of those claims.

With climate change leading to more dangerous storms and expanding the risk of flooding, the U.S. and its coastal communities are beginning to suffer the pitfalls of building in flood-prone areas.

“The risk is there as weather losses are on the rise,” said Lynne McChristian, the director of the Office of Risk Management & Insurance Research at the University of Illinois, “and those exposures are growing because we’re building more expensive things in the most vulnerable areas.”

That has become a growing challenge for FEMA, as it often provides aid to communities prone to flooding. It has hoped that more people in these areas would sign up for insurance — especially those in flood-prone areas. FEMA guidelines have gone so far as to refuse aid to those who have received funds from the federal agency for flooding in the past if they have not picked up flood insurance coverage in the meantime.

“I think anybody who lives near water should certainly purchase flood insurance because it’s your No. 1 tool to help protect your family and your home after the storm,” FEMA administrator Deanne Criswell told CNN last week.

One significant issue is that many homeowners assume a typical homeowner's insurance policy covers floods. Florida law requires insurers to inform their clients about the coverage gap, but many Floridians expressed surprise to find their policy did not cover flooding.

One Florida requirement is that each policy at issuance and renewal must include in at least 18-point bold font four sentences warning that a separate flood policy is necessary. “Your homeowner’s insurance policy does not include coverage for damage resulting from a flood even if hurricane winds and rain caused the flood to occur,” the warning text states.

“I think people might read them less now because it’s all electronic,” McChristian said of the policies and the warnings. “Regulators in several states have tried to do it, but it’s not moving the needle.”

Affordability also remains an essential reason many gave for forgoing flood insurance. The average cost of flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program is \$995 a year, according to Forbes Advisor analysis. That number can fluctuate depending on the location and floodwater risk the home faces, and it is an additional cost on top of other homeowner policies. That can make it unaffordable or, at the very least, a burden.

Although mortgage companies often require coverage upon purchase of a home in areas prone to flooding, some allow their coverage to lapse as costs have gone up. Others, who own their homes outright, no longer have to maintain that coverage.

Leslie Weyhrich said that she and her husband decided to cut back on insurance coverage for their second home on Sanibel Island in May after 15 years of holding a policy. Each year the price grew astronomically and they knew they would be facing another massive cost for a needed roof repair. Now they will be stuck footing the bill for much of the damage themselves.

"It went up significantly, maybe about five or six years ago," said Weyhrich. "But every year that bill came due, we discussed whether it was worth it or not because the deductibles were so high, it didn't cover as much as it used to and it just made less fiscal sense."

But decisions like these could prove existential for many on the island and for communities across Florida, and it is an issue that is unlikely to be sorted in the near term and could lead to litigation.

"Half the people I've talked to on this island are uninsured for flooding and that is absolutely terrifying," said Chuck Bergstrom, a realtor on Sanibel Island who stayed in his home through the storm. "And whether you have it or not, these insurance companies aren't here to help these folks right now. They'll negotiate as hard as they can."

Those who have flood coverage are also gearing up for their own insurance nightmare as they debate with their carriers whether a home's damage was caused by floodwaters or the hurricane's wind.

The separate policies means companies on both sides are likely to have a drawn-out battle that could become litigious.

"The lawyers are going to have a field day with this," Bergstrom added. "I mean, who pays for what exactly?"

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HEADLINE	10/11 Real goal of Putin 'revenge-bombs'?
SOURCE	https://www.thedailybeast.com/russian-state-media-exposes-the-real-goal-of-vladimir-putins-revenge-bombs-in-ukraine?ref=home
GIST	<p>Russia escalated its reign of terror against its neighbor this week, raining missiles on the people of Ukraine and civilian infrastructure in what appeared to be a series of indiscriminate strikes. While the attacks seemed to be devoid of any military meaning—changing nothing on the battlefield, where Russia continues to lose—the rationale behind them was revealed on Russian state media, where the ugly truth is systematically breaking through state-erected barriers.</p> <p>An explosion that rocked the Crimean bridge last week was an attack against one of the symbols of "Russia's pride," said State Duma Defense Committee's head Andrey Kartapolov during the latest broadcast of <i>Sunday Evening With Vladimir Solovyov</i>. According to Kartapolov, another such symbol was the sunken warship Moskva—and now, the only symbol that remains is Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kartapolov urged Russians to unite behind Putin, and his desperate plea spotlighted the true reason behind Moscow's barrage of missiles: to curb waning public support for Putin's mindless war.</p> <p>Aggravated by the excitement in Kyiv that followed the explosion of the Crimean bridge last week, Konstantin Dolgov, the former Russian commissioner for human rights, said during Monday's broadcast</p>

of state tv show *60 Minutes* that the retaliatory strikes were justified, and that all of Ukraine's infrastructure should be considered military targets that are fair game for destruction. Dolgov yearned for pained reactions from Ukrainians affected by the strikes, [asking](#): "Are they whining yet? Are they howling yet?"

Appearing on *60 Minutes*, member of Russia's State Duma Andrey Isayev noted that the strikes served as a mood booster for Russian audiences: "It's absolutely clear that the citizens support the decisive actions of the president and the mood of many has improved."

Anton Krasovsky, director of broadcasting for the state-funded *RT* channel, said that he was beyond happy and posted a video of himself dancing on his balcony in his pajamas on Telegram, while the strikes were taking place on Monday.

Konstantin Zatulin, first deputy chairman of the committee of the State Duma for the CIS and relations with Russian nationals abroad, said that seeing the aftermath of Russia's missile strikes against Ukraine brought a "feeling of satisfaction." He stated that Russia's short-term goal is "to reclaim the initiative we used to have, which was unfortunately depleted during the summer, which resulted in considerable losses of the territories we previously controlled."

Political scientist Sergey Mikheyev argued that the destruction of Ukraine's civilian infrastructure should have been the priority from the get-go. He opined that the best way Russia can exhibit compassion in Ukraine would be best compared to cutting a dog's tail off: the faster, the better. Mikheyev advocated leaving all of Ukraine without gas, electricity, running water or sewers. He explained that unless Ukrainians are forced to freeze, they won't understand what a war truly is. Mikheyev added, "Five to ten million of them should head to Europe." The same view was previously voiced last week, when Andrey Sidorov, Deputy Dean of world politics at the Moscow State University, [urged Russia to cause a massive refugee crisis in Europe](#), exacerbating economic and political tensions by prompting a massive influx of Ukrainian refugees.

Solovyov wholeheartedly agreed that the Ukrainian infrastructure should be demolished with a constant barrage of missile strikes: "They already consider us villains anyway. It's better to be feared than to be laughed at." Sidorov concurred and said that the latest strikes were important for "psychological reasons" and should continue.

Mikheyev stressed that propaganda was a far more effective weapon than HIMARS. He argued that Russia "legitimized" the Ukrainian government and described the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky as a "roach," who was turned by Russia into a figure of global stature. Excitedly talking over each other, Mikheyev and Solovyov asserted that Zelensky and the rest of the Ukrainian government should be considered top military targets for the Russian military. Mikheyev added: "Symbolic strikes are very important—we live in the information age."

Karen Shakhnazarov said he was disturbed by the escalation that he described as a potential Armageddon, but immediately tried to excuse Putin's strikes against Ukrainian civilians by comparing the Crimean bridge incident to the September 11 attacks in the U.S.

"It is a terrorist action. More than that, in its magnitude, it's comparable to September 11th in the United States. For Russia, the Crimean bridge is of an even larger importance. The skyscrapers are symbols, but they had no importance to the infrastructure," Shakhnazarov said. "The Crimean bridge is of enormous importance in linking Crimea to Russia... The United States immediately declared those whom they believed responsible for the destruction of those towers to be outside the law."

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HEADLINE	10/11 More polio detected in NYC wastewater
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/polio-detected-york-city-wastewater-data-shows/story?id=91349608

GIST	<p>More evidence of polio has been detected in New York City wastewater, according to the state Department of Health.</p> <p>So far, only one case of polio has been identified, in a previously healthy 20-year-old man from Rockland County who developed paralysis in his legs, local officials said.</p> <p>As of Oct. 7, 70 wastewater samples have detected, including 63 samples genetically linked to the Rockland County patient, according to health department data.</p> <p>Of the 63 samples, 37 were collected in Rockland County, 16 in Orange County, eight in Sullivan County, one in Nassau County, and one in New York City from Brooklyn "and a small, adjacent part of Queens County."</p> <p>The New York City sample was collected in August, the health department said.</p> <p>State health officials said most adults do not need the polio vaccine or a booster because they were already fully vaccinated as children.</p> <p>However, they have stressed the importance of getting vaccinated against or staying up to date with the immunization schedule. Among unvaccinated people, polio can lead to permanent paralysis in the arms and/or legs and even death.</p> <p>"These findings put an alarming exclamation point on what we have already observed: unvaccinated people are at a real and unnecessary risk" State Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett and City Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasan said in a joint statement. "We have seen more New Yorkers getting vaccinated."</p> <p>The statement continued, "But these latest results are a searing reminder that there is no time to waste, especially for young children, who must be brought up to date with vaccinations right away. Paralysis changes life forever. Fortunately, the response is simple: get vaccinated against polio."</p> <p>According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the polio vaccine protects 99% of children who get all recommended doses from severe disease from poliovirus.</p> <p>The NYSDOH said between July 21 -- when the case of polio was announced -- and Oct. 2, more than 28,000 polio vaccine doses have been administered to children aged 18 and younger, in Nassau, Orange, Rockland and Sullivan counties.</p> <p>New York Gov. Kathy Hochul extended the state of emergency declared in response to the polio case and said it will remain until at least Nov. 8 as health officials continue to try and boost polio vaccination rates.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 UK spy chief: China rise is top threat
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/uk-spy-chief-chinas-tech-aims-threat-us-91322675
GIST	<p>LONDON -- The head of Britain's cyber-intelligence agency on Tuesday accused China of trying to "rewrite the rules of international security," saying Beijing is using its economic and technological clout to clamp down at home and exert control abroad.</p> <p>Jeremy Fleming, director of GCHQ, said that despite war raging in Europe since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Beijing's growing power is the "national security issue that will define our future."</p> <p>In a rare public speech to the Royal United Services Institute think tank, Fleming alleged that Beijing's Communist authorities want to "gain strategic advantage by shaping the world's technology ecosystems."</p>

“When it comes to technology, the politically motivated actions of the Chinese state is an increasingly urgent problem we must acknowledge and address,” Fleming said. “That’s because it’s changing the definition of national security into a much broader concept. Technology has become not just an area for opportunity, for competition and for collaboration, it’s become a battleground for control, for values and for influence.”

He argued that the one-party system in Beijing seeks to control China’s population and sees other countries “as either potential adversaries or potential client states, to be threatened, bribed or coerced.”

Ahead of the speech, a Chinese official in Beijing said that China’s technological development is aimed at improving the lives of Chinese people and does not pose a threat.

“These allegations have no factual basis at all,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. “Clinging to the so-called China threat and provoking confrontation benefits no one and will eventually backfire.”

Relations between Britain and China have grown increasingly frosty in recent years, with U.K. officials accusing Beijing of economic subterfuge and human rights abuses.

British spies have given increasingly negative assessments of Beijing’s influence and intentions. Last year the head of the MI6 overseas intelligence agency, Richard Moore, called China one of the biggest threats to Britain and its allies.

In 2020, then-British Prime Minister Boris Johnson followed the United States in banning Chinese tech firm Huawei as a security risk, ordering it to be stripped out of the U.K.’s 5G telecoms network by 2027.

Fleming warned that China is seeking to fragment the infrastructure of the internet to exert greater control. He also said China is seeking to use digital currencies used by central banks to snoop on users’ transactions and as a way of avoiding future international sanctions of the sort imposed on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Fleming argued that China’s BeiDou satellite system — an alternative to the widely used GPS navigation technology — could contain “a powerful anti-satellite capability, with a doctrine of denying other nations access to space in the event of a conflict.”

Fleming warned that the world is approaching a “sliding doors” moment in history — a reference to the 1998 Gwyneth Paltrow film in which a woman’s fate hinges on a seemingly trivial moment.

He called on Western firms and researchers to toughen intellectual property protections and for democratic countries to develop alternatives that can prevent developing nations from “mortgaging the future by buying into the Chinese vision for technology.”

He said the world’s democracies can’t afford to fall behind in cutting-edge fields such as quantum computing, and warned of a potential weakness over semiconductors, the critical chips used in everyday electronics. Taiwan — which China regards as a breakaway province to be reclaimed by force if necessary — is a world leader in their production.

“Events in the Taiwan Straits — any risk to that vital supply chain — have the potential to directly impact the resilience of the U.K. and global future growth,” Fleming said.

Fleming also addressed the war in Ukraine, saying Russia is running short of weapons and Ukraine’s “courageous action on the battlefield and in cyberspace is turning the tide.”

“Russia’s forces are exhausted,” he said. “The use of prisoners as reinforcements, and now the mobilization of tens of thousands of inexperienced conscripts, speaks of a desperate situation.”

	GCHQ, formally known as the Government Communications Headquarters, is one of Britain's three main intelligence agencies, alongside MI5 and MI6. It did not disclose the sources of its intelligence on China and Russia.
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HEADLINE	10/11 EU eyes Africa to replace Russia gas
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/eu-countries-turn-africa-bid-replace-russian-gas-91371719
GIST	<p>DAKAR, Senegal -- A new liquefied natural gas project off Africa's western coast may only be 80% complete, but already the prospect of a new energy supplier has drawn visits from the leaders of Poland and Germany.</p> <p>The initial field near Senegal and Mauritania's coastlines is expected to contain about 15 trillion cubic feet (425 billion cubic meters) of gas, five times more than what gas-dependent Germany used in all of 2019. But production isn't expected to start until the end of next year.</p> <p>That won't help solve Europe's energy crisis triggered by Russia's war in Ukraine. Still, Gordon Birrell, an executive for project co-developer BP, says the development "could not be more timely" as Europe seeks to reduce its reliance on Russian natural gas to power factories, generate electricity and heat homes.</p> <p>"Current world events are demonstrating the vital role that (liquid gas) can play in underpinning the energy security of nations and regions," he told an energy industry meeting in West Africa last month.</p> <p>While Africa's natural gas reserves are vast and North African countries like Algeria have pipelines already linked to Europe, a lack of infrastructure and security challenges have long stymied producers in other parts of the continent from scaling up exports. Already-established African producers are cutting deals or reducing energy use so they have more to sell to boost their finances, but some leaders warn that hundreds of millions of Africans lack electricity and supplies are needed at home.</p> <p>Nigeria has Africa's largest natural gas reserves, said Horatius Egua, a spokesman for the petroleum minister, though it accounts for only 14% of the European Union's imports of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, that comes by ship. Projects face the risk of energy thefts and high costs. Other promising countries like Mozambique have discovered large gas reserves only to see projects delayed by violence from Islamic militants.</p> <p>Europe has been scrambling to secure alternative sources as Moscow has reduced natural gas flows to EU countries, triggering soaring energy prices and growing expectations of a recession. The 27-nation EU, whose energy ministers are meeting this week to discuss a gas price cap, is bracing for the possibility of a complete Russian cutoff but has still managed to fill gas reserves to 90%.</p> <p>European leaders have flocked to countries like Norway, Qatar, Azerbaijan and especially those in North Africa, where Algeria has a pipeline running to Italy and another to Spain.</p> <p>Italy signed a \$4 billion gas deal with Algeria in July, a month after Egypt reached an agreement with the European Union and Israel to boost sales of LNG. Angola also has signed a gas deal with Italy.</p> <p>While an earlier agreement allowed Italy's biggest energy company to start production at two Algerian gas fields this week, it was wasn't clear when flows would start from the July deal because it lacked specifics, analysts said.</p> <p>African leaders like Senegalese President Macky Sall want their countries to cash in on these projects even as they're being dissuaded from pursuing fossil fuels. They don't want to export it all either — an estimated 600 million Africans lack access to electricity.</p> <p>"It is legitimate, fair and equitable that Africa, the continent that pollutes the least and lags furthest behind in the industrialization process should exploit its available resources to provide basic energy, improve the</p>

competitiveness of its economy and achieve universal access to electricity,” Sall told the U.N. General Assembly last month.

Algeria is a major supplier — it and Egypt accounted for 60% of the natural gas production in Africa in 2020 — but it can't offset Russian gas to Europe at this stage, said Mahfoud Kaoubi, professor of economics and specialist in energy issues at the University of Algiers.

“Russia has an annual production of 270 billion cubic meters — it’s huge,” Kaoubi said. “Algeria is 120 billion cubic meters, of which 70.50% is intended for consumption on the internal market.”

This year, Algeria is forecast to have piped exports of 31.8 billion cubic meters, according to Tom Purdie, a Europe, Middle East and Africa gas analyst with S&P Global Commodity Insights.

“The key concern here surrounds the level of production step-up that can be achieved, and the impact domestic demand could have” given how much gas Algeria uses at home, Purdie said.

Cash-strapped Egypt also is looking to export more natural gas to Europe, even regulating air conditioning in shopping malls and lights on streets to save energy and sell it instead.

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly says Egypt hopes to bring in an additional \$450 million a month in foreign currency by rerouting 15% of its domestic gas usage for export, state media reported.

More than 60% of Egypt’s natural gas consumption still is used by power stations to keep the country running. Most of its LNG goes to Asian markets.

A new, three-party deal will see Israel send more gas to Europe via Egypt, which has facilities to liquefy it for export by sea. The EU says it will help the two countries increase gas production and exploration.

In Nigeria, ambitious plans have yet to yield results despite years of planning. The country exported less than 1% of its vast natural gas reserves last year.

A proposed 4,400-kilometer-long (2,734-mile-long) pipeline that would take Nigerian gas to Algeria through Niger has been stalled since 2009, mainly because of its estimated cost of \$13 billion.

Many fear that even if completed, the Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline would face security risks like Nigeria's oil pipelines, which have come under frequent attacks from militants and vandals.

The same challenges would hinder increased gas exports to Europe, said Olufola Wusu, a Lagos-based oil and gas expert.

“If you look at the realities on ground — issues that have to do with crude oil theft — and others begin to question our ability to supply gas to Europe,” he said.

Wusu urged pursuing LNG, calling it the “most profitable” gas strategy so far.

Even that isn't without issues: In July, the head of Nigeria LNG Limited, the country’s largest natural gas firm, said its plant was producing at just 68% of capacity, mainly because its operations and earnings have been stifled by oil theft.

In the south, Mozambique is slated to become a major exporter of LNG after significant deposits were found along its Indian Ocean coast in 2010. France's TotalEnergies invested \$20 billion and started work to extract gas that would be liquefied in a plant it was building in Palma, in the northern Cabo Delgado province.

But Islamic extremist violence forced TotalEnergies to indefinitely scupper the project last year. Mozambican officials have pledged to secure the Palma area to allow work to resume.

	<p>Italian firm Eni, meanwhile, pressed ahead with its plan to pump and liquefy some of its gas deposits discovered in Mozambique in 2011 and 2014. Eni established a platform in the Indian Ocean 50 miles (80 kilometers) offshore, away from the violence in Cabo Delgado.</p> <p>It's the first floating LNG facility in the deep waters off Africa, Eni says, with gas liquefaction capacity of 3.4 million tons per year.</p> <p>The platform liquefied its first gas on Oct. 2, according to Africa Energy, and the first shipment is expected to depart for Europe in mid-October.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 NATO to hold planned nuclear exercise
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nato-hold-nuclear-exercise-russian-warnings-91334461
GIST	<p>BRUSSELS -- NATO will push ahead with long-planned nuclear exercises next week despite rising tensions over the war in Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin's insistence that he is not bluffing about using all available means to defend Russian territory, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Tuesday.</p> <p>The exercise, dubbed "Steadfast Noon," is held annually and usually runs for about one week. It involves fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear warheads but does not involve any live bombs. Conventional jets, and surveillance and refueling aircraft also routinely take part.</p> <p>Fourteen of the 30 NATO member countries will be involved in the exercise, which was planned before Russia invaded Ukraine in February. The main part of the maneuvers would be held more than 1,000 kilometers (625 miles) from Russia, a NATO official said.</p> <p>"It would send a very wrong signal if we suddenly now cancelled a routine, long-time planned exercise because of the war in Ukraine. That would be absolutely the wrong signal to send," Stoltenberg told reporters on the eve of a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels.</p> <p>"NATO's firm, predictable behavior, our military strength, is the best way to prevent escalation," he said. "If we now created the grounds for any misunderstandings, miscalculations in Moscow about our willingness to protect and defend all allies, we would increase the risk of escalation."</p> <p>With the Russian army retreating under the blows of Ukrainian forces armed with Western weapons, Putin raised the stakes by annexing four Ukrainian regions and declaring a partial mobilization of up to 300,000 reservists to buttress the crumbling front line.</p> <p>As his war plans have gone awry, Putin has repeatedly signaled that he could resort to nuclear weapons to protect the Russian gains. The threat is also aimed at deterring NATO nations from sending more sophisticated weapons to Ukraine.</p> <p>NATO as an organization does not possess any weapons. The nuclear weapons nominally linked to NATO remain under the firm control of three member countries — the U.S., U.K. and France. The alliance's secretive Nuclear Planning Group will meet on Thursday among defense ministers.</p> <p>Stoltenberg described Putin's spiraling nuclear rhetoric as "dangerous and reckless," and underlined that the allies "have also conveyed clearly to Russia that it will have severe consequences if they use nuclear weapons in any way."</p> <p>"We are closely monitoring Russia's nuclear forces," Stoltenberg said. "We have not seen any changes in Russia's posture, but we remain vigilant."</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Swedes nix Russia request for pipeline info
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/swedes-refuse-russian-request-pipeline-probe-info-91322773
GIST	<p>COPENHAGEN, Denmark -- Sweden's prime minister says that her country cannot share with Russia details from its probe into last month's underwater explosions that ruptured two key gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea, citing confidentiality surrounding the investigation.</p> <p>"In Sweden there is secrecy around preliminary investigation and that also applies in this case," Magdalena Andersson said of the blast and ruptures that happened in international waters off Sweden's Baltic coastline but within the country's exclusive economic zone.</p> <p>The explosions ruptured the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, which until Russia cut off supplies at the end of August was its main gas supply route to Germany. They also damaged the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which never entered service as Germany suspended its certification process shortly before Russia invaded Ukraine in February. The damaged pipelines discharged huge amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, into the air.</p> <p>Russia formally asked Sweden's government to be part of the Swedish investigation in a letter dated Oct. 6.</p> <p>"We're still working on how we exactly formulate the answer," Andersson said Monday at a naval base in southern Sweden.</p> <p>In its preliminary investigation, Sweden's domestic security agency said last week that its probe "has strengthened the suspicions of serious sabotage" as the cause of the blasts. Sweden's prosecutor in charge of the investigation said evidence at the site has been seized.</p> <p>The Swedish Security Service said the probe confirmed that "detonations" caused extensive damage to the pipelines. Authorities had said when the four leaks off Sweden and Denmark first surfaced that explosions were recorded in the area.</p> <p>In a separate statement, Swedish prosecutor Mats Ljungqvist said "seizures have been made at the crime scene and these will now be investigated." Ljungqvist, who led the preliminary investigation, did not identify the seized evidence.</p> <p>In Denmark, authorities remained tight-lipped about its investigation. Denmark broadcaster TV2 reported from the site that ships with the Danish and German navy ships were in the area.</p> <p>German federal prosecutors, who investigate national security cases, also have opened an investigation against persons unknown on suspicion of deliberately causing an explosion and anti-constitutional sabotage.</p> <p>The German investigation comes on top of the Danish and Swedish probes but are carried out with the European Union framework.</p> <p>German federal prosecutors said the reason for them getting involved as well is that an attack on energy supplies could affect Germany's external and domestic security. On Sunday, authorities said that two German boats had set off for the area where the leaks occurred to look into what happened.</p> <p>Russian President Vladimir Putin has accused the West of attacking the pipelines, which the United States and its allies vehemently denied.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Ousted Myanmar leader new prison term
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/graft-convictions-extend-suu-kyis-prison-term-26-91367993

GIST	<p>BANGKOK -- A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on two more corruption charges Wednesday, with two three-year sentences, to be served concurrently, added to previous convictions that now leave her with a 26-year total prison term.</p> <p>Suu Kyi, 77, was detained on Feb. 1, 2021, when the military seized power from her elected government. She has denied the allegations against her in this case, in which she was accused of receiving \$550,000 as a bribe from Maung Weik, a tycoon convicted several years ago of drug trafficking.</p> <p>She had already been sentenced to 23 years' imprisonment after being convicted of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, breaching the country's official secrets act, sedition, election fraud and five other corruption charges.</p> <p>Supporters and independent analysts say all the charges are politically motivated and an attempt to discredit her and legitimize the military's seizure of power while keeping her from taking part in the next election that the military has promised in 2023.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Climate disasters damage for 2022: \$100B?
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/damage-weather-climate-disasters-exceed-100b-2022-noaa/story?id=91345859
GIST	<p>Damage from weather and climate disasters in 2022 could exceed \$100 billion in the U.S. by the end of the year, according to estimations from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.</p> <p>So far this year, 15 events -- including the recent Hurricanes Fiona and Ian -- have incurred damages of more than \$1 billion, NOAA announced on Tuesday. It is the 8th consecutive year in which the U.S. has endured 10 or more billion-dollar disaster events.</p> <p>The current tally for 2022 is \$29.3 billion in destruction, but the costs from Fiona, Ian and the wildfires in the West are still being tallied, according to NOAA.</p> <p>More than 340 U.S. have died in these events, but death tolls could rise as search and rescue crews continue to comb through battered portions of Southwest Florida and Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Ian made landfall in Florida on Sept. 28 as a strong Category 4 hurricane and tracked across the state before exiting into the Atlantic Ocean and making another landfall in South Carolina as a Category 1 storm. Entire neighborhoods on Sanibel Island and Fort Myers Beach were decimated with storm surge and up to 150 mph winds.</p> <p>On Sept. 18, Fiona brought major flooding, damage and loss of life to Puerto Rico -- five years after the island was devastated by Hurricane Maria.</p> <p>Since 1980, the U.S. has sustained 338 weather and climate disasters in which the overall damages exceeded \$1 billion, according to NOAA. The total cost of those 338 events exceeds \$2.295 trillion.</p> <p>Climate scientists warn that extreme weather events such as hurricanes, wildfires and drought will become more severe as global temperatures continue to rise.</p>
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Cyber, Tech Awareness

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HEADLINE	10/12 Iran suffers 'major disruption' of internet
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/world/iran-suffers-major-disruption-of-internet-as-protests-loom/?amp=1

GIST

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran suffered a “major disruption” in internet service Wednesday amid calls for renewed protests weeks after the death of a 22-year-old woman who had been detained by the country’s morality police, an advocacy group said.

The demonstrations over the death of Mahsa Amini have become one of the greatest challenges to Iran’s theocracy since the country’s 2009 Green Movement protests. Demonstrators have included oil workers, high school students and women marching without their mandatory headscarf, or hijab.

Calls for protests beginning at noon Wednesday saw a massive deployment of riot police and plainclothes officers throughout Tehran, witnesses said. They also described disruptions affecting their mobile internet services.

NetBlocks, an advocacy group, said that Iran’s internet traffic had dropped to some 25% compared to the peak, even during a working day in which students were in class across the country.

“The incident is likely to further limit the free flow of information amid protests,” NetBlocks said.

Despite the disruption, witnesses saw at least one demonstration in Tehran by some 30 women who had removed their headscarves while chanting: “Death to the dictator!” Passing cars honked in support despite the threats of security forces. Other women simply continued with their day not wearing the hijab in a silent protest, witnesses said.

Iran’s government insists Amini was not mistreated, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained for violating the Islamic Republic’s strict dress code. Subsequent videos have shown security forces beating and shoving female protesters, including women who have torn off their hijabs.

Anger has been particularly acute in western Iran’s Kurdish regions, as Amini was Kurdish. On Wednesday, a Kurdish group called the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights showed images of closed shops and empty streets in some areas, describing it as a strike by shopkeepers. The group also posted a video it said came from Amini’s hometown of Saqqez, which showed truckloads of riot police moving through the city.

While the demonstrations have focused on Amini’s death, anger has been simmering in Iran for years over the country’s cratering economy. Sanctions over Tehran’s nuclear program have seen a collapse in the country’s rial currency, wiping out the savings of many.

It remains unclear how many people have been killed or arrested so far in the protests.

An Oslo-based group, Iran Human Rights, estimated Wednesday that at least 201 people have been killed. This includes an estimated 90 people killed by security forces in the eastern Iranian city of Zahedan amid demonstrations against a police officer accused of rape in a separate case. Iranian authorities have described the Zahedan violence as involving unnamed separatists, without providing details or evidence.

Numerous videos have emerged of riot police shooting into crowds, with some likely using live fire. Apparently feeling the pressure from the public, Iran’s police chief, Gen. Hossein Ashtari, claimed on state television Wednesday without providing evidence that “counterrevolutionary groups abroad” wore police uniforms and fired into the crowds. He claimed his officers had made arrests of some of those people.

Meanwhile, Iran’s Education Minister Yousof Nouri offered the first confirmation that school-age children had been arrested amid the protests. He declined to offer a figure for those arrest, the pro-reform newspaper Shargh reported, only saying those detained had been put “in a psychiatric center,” not in jail.

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HEADLINE 10/11 Internet disruptions, attacks hit Ukraine

SOURCE <https://therecord.media/internet-disruptions-cyberattacks-hit-ukraine-following-russian-missile-strikes/>

Internet and mobile communications in Ukraine were disrupted Monday and Tuesday after Russian missile strikes caused widespread power outages.

Data from [Cloudflare](#) shows that internet availability in the country was 35% below usual levels early on Monday. As of Tuesday morning, the internet in Ukraine is still experiencing disruptions as Russia continues to attack the country's critical infrastructure, but most regions have restored connections, according to Cloudflare.

Mobile communication was disrupted or partially disappeared in some regions, according to Ukrainian state officials.

Local authorities asked Ukrainians to limit the use of mobile communications and electricity, as much of the country's telecommunication infrastructure and energy facilities were damaged following the missile attacks on Ukrainian cities.

Russia fired a total of 84 missiles and 24 drones at Ukraine on Monday, damaging critical infrastructure sites, residential buildings, schools, cultural institutions, and healthcare facilities.

"Ukraine is now in the midst of some of the most severe blackouts since the beginning of the war," said [Alp Toker](#), director of internet monitoring organization NetBlocks. More than a thousand settlements in Ukraine remain without power as of Monday evening, according to Ukrainian authorities.

To work in the absence of a power supply, Ukrainian mobile carriers and internet providers use generators and Elon Musk's satellite internet Starlink, according to [Mykhailo Fedorov](#), Ukraine's minister of digital transformation. "Since the beginning of the war, they have learned how to restore communication as quickly as possible," he said.

The Ukrainian energy sector is one of the most vulnerable to Russian attacks, both digital and physical. Even before the full-scale invasion, Ukraine had been anticipating large-scale Russian cyberattacks on its energy systems, which has yet to occur. The missile strikes, however, accomplished similar goals.

Earlier in September, Ukrainian [cybersecurity officials](#) said Russia was planning "massive cyberattacks" against the Ukrainian energy sector to "increase the effect of missile strikes."

According to Ukraine's Defense Intelligence, Russia may use its previous experience in attacking Ukraine's energy systems. In 2015, Russia's [BlackEnergy malware](#) left around half of the homes in the Ivano-Frankivsk region in Ukraine without electricity for a few hours, while in 2016 Russia used [Industroyer malware](#) to attack Ukraine's power grid, depriving part of its capital, Kyiv, of power.

Hacking response

Following the missile strikes, pro-Russia hackers launched distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks against the Ukrainian mobile bank Monobank, sending 6 million requests per minute.

According to Monobank co-founder [Oleg Gorokhovsky](#), hackers attacked the bank after Ukrainian volunteers launched a crowdfunding campaign there to purchase Ukrainian-made RAM II kamikaze drones for the army. The DDoS attack didn't stop Ukrainians from donating – they [raised](#) over \$5.7 million in eight hours.

So far, no hacking group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Russian hacktivists from the Cyber Army group wrote on Telegram that they also hacked the websites of [the Lviv Chamber of Commerce](#) and one of [Ukraine's armored vehicle producers](#) on Monday. Both websites are now operational and haven't reported any incidents.

Ukrainian cybersecurity officials said that most pro-Kremlin cyberattacks on Ukraine are chaotic and poorly planned. "First, Russian hackers try to gain access to information systems, and only then decide

	what to do with it,” said Victor Zhora , deputy chairman at Ukraine’s State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection.
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HEADLINE	10/11 Patch Tuesday? Its Ada Lovelace Day
SOURCE	https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2022/10/11/move-over-patch-tuesday-its-ada-lovelace-day/
GIST	<p>The second Tuesday of every month is Microsoft’s regular day for security updates, still known by almost everyone by its unofficial nickname of “Patch Tuesday”.</p> <p>But the second Tuesday in October is also Ada Lovelace Day, celebrating Ada, Countess of Lovelace. Ada was a true pioneer not only of computing, but also of computer science, and gave her name to the programming language Ada.</p> <p>The Ada language, intriguingly, emerged from a US Department of Defense project aimed at “debabelising” the world of governmental coding, where every department seemed to favour a different language, or a different language dialect, making it more difficult, more expensive, and less reliable to get them to work together.</p> <p>Ada had numerous syntactic features aimed at improving readability and avoiding common mistakes. Unlike comments in C, which start with /* and run until the next */, perhaps many lines later, Ada simply ignores anything after -- on any one line, so comments can’t accidentally run on further than you intended.</p> <p>Instead of enclosing all multiline code blocks within squiggly brackets ({...}, also known as <i>braces</i>), Ada has a unique terminator for each sort of multi-line block, e.g. end record, end loop and end if. Ada Lovelace, we suspect, would have applauded the clarity of her namesake language, but Ada-the-language never really caught on, and C’s squiggly bracket syntax has largely won the day, with Python perhaps the only non-squiggly-bracket language in widespread use. Squiggly brackets are a vital aspect of C, C++, C#, Go, Java, JavaScript, Perl, Rust and many other popular languages.</p> <p>Ada Lovelace’s era</p> <p>You might be surprised to find, given how strongly Ada’s name is associated with the beginnings of computer science, that she lived in the first half of the nineteenth century, long before anything that we currently recognise as a computer, or even a calculator, existed.</p> <p>(Ada died of uterine cancer in 1852 at just 36 years old.)</p> <p>But although computers in their modern sense didn’t exist in the 1800s, they <i>very nearly</i> did.</p> <p>Here’s how it almost happened.</p> <p>Charles Babbage, in the early 1800s, famously devised a mechanical calculating device called the <i>Difference Engine</i> that could, in theory at least, automatically solve polynomial equations in the sixth degree, e.g. by finding values for X that would satisfy:</p> $aX^6 + bX^5 + cX^4 + dX^3 + eX^2 + fX + g = 0$ <p>The UK government was interested, because a device of this sort could be used for creating accurate mathematical tables, such as square roots, logarithms and trigonometric ratios.</p> <p>And any machine good at trigonometric calculations would also be handy for computing things like gunnery tables that could revolutionise the accuracy of artillery at land and sea.</p> <p>But Babbage had two problems.</p>

Firstly, he could never quite reach the engineering precision needed to get the Difference Engine to work properly, because it involved sufficiently many interlocking gears that backlash (tiny but cumulative inaccuracies leading to “sloppiness” in the mechanism) would lock it up.

Secondly, he seems to have lost interest in the Difference Engine when he realised it was a dead end – in modern terms, you can think of it as a pocket calculator, but not as a tablet computer or a laptop.

So Babbage leapt ahead with the design of a yet more complex device that he dubbed the *Analytical Engine*, which could work out much more general scientific problems than one sort of polynomial equation.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, if regrettably in hindsight, the government wasn’t terribly interested in funding Babbage’s more advanced project.

Given that he hadn’t managed to build the mechanism needed for a much simpler equation solver, what chance did a giant, steam-powered, general-purpose computer have of ever delivering any useful results?

The European conference circuit

In a curious twist of international, multilingual co-operation, Babbage travelled to Italy to give a lecture promoting his Analytical Engine.

In the audience was a military engineer named Captain Luigi Menabrea, who was thus inspired to co-operate with Babbage to produce an 1842 paper that described the machine.

Although he was Italian, Menabrea published his paper in French...

...and it was Ada Lovelace who then translated Menabrea’s paper [into English](#).

At Babbage’s urging, Ada also added a series of [Notes by the Translator](#), which turned out not only to be more than twice as long as Menabrea’s original report, but also more insightful, explaining several important characteristics of what we would now call a general-purpose computer.

Walter Isaacson, in his excellently readable book [The Innovators](#), published in 2014, describes how Ada “explored four concepts that would have historical resonance a century later when the computer was finally born”:

- Ada recognized that the Analytical Engine, unlike the Difference Engine, was truly a general-purpose device, because it could not only be programmed to do one thing, but also, and comparatively easily, be reprogrammed to perform some completely different task.
-

In Ada’s own words (this was an age in which scientific literature still had rather more in touch with literature than perhaps it does today):

The Difference Engine can in reality (as has been already partly explained) do nothing but add; and any other processes, not excepting those of simple subtraction, multiplication and division, can be performed by it only just to that extent in which it is possible, by judicious mathematical arrangement and artifices, to reduce them to a series of additions. The method of differences is, in fact, a method of additions; and as it includes within its means a larger number of results attainable by addition simply, than any other mathematical principle, it was very appropriately selected as the basis on which to construct an Adding Machine, so as to give to the powers of such a machine the widest possible range. The Analytical Engine, on the contrary, can either add, subtract, multiply or divide with equal facility; and performs each of these four operations in a direct manner, without the aid of any of the other three. This one fact implies everything; and it is scarcely necessary to point out, for instance, that while the Difference Engine can merely tabulate, and is incapable of developing, the Analytical Engine can either tabulate or develop.

- Ada realised that the Analytical Engine was not limited to encoding and computing with numbers. Although digital, and based on an ability to perform numerical calculations, these digital operations, she explained, could in theory represent logical propositions (as we take for granted today in if ... then ... else ... end if statements), musical notes, and so on.

As Ada put it:

[The Analytical Engine] might act upon other things besides number, were objects found whose mutual fundamental relations could be expressed by those of the abstract science of operations, and which should be also susceptible of adaptations to the action of the operating notation and mechanism of the engine. Supposing, for instance, that the fundamental relations of pitched sounds in the science of harmony and of musical composition were susceptible of such expression and adaptations, the engine might compose elaborate and scientific pieces of music of any degree of complexity or extent. The Analytical Engine is an embodying of the science of operations, constructed with peculiar reference to abstract number as the subject of those operations.

- Ada came up with the concept of reusing parts of what we now call programs. In this sense, she can be said to have invented the concept of the subroutine, including recursive subroutines (functions that simplify the solution by breaking a calculation into a series of similar subcalculations, and then calling themselves).
- Ada first usefully addressed the question “Can machines think?” This is an issue that has worried us ever since.

The Frankenstein connection

Ada’s father (though she never met him) was the infamous poet Lord Byron, who memorably spent a rainy holiday in Switzerland writing horror stories with his literary chums Percy and Mary Shelley.

Byron’s and Percy Shelley’s efforts in this friendly writing competition are entirely forgotten today, but Mary Shelley’s seminal novel *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* (published in 1818) is popular and well-respected to this day.

The Frankenstein story famously explored the moral dilemmas surrounding what we might today refer to as artificial intelligence. (Frankenstein, don’t forget, was the scientist who conducted the experiment, not the AI that emerged from the project.)

Ada, however, didn’t seem to share her father’s friend’s dystopian concerns about Analytical Engines, or indeed about computers in general.

She offered the opinion, in the final section of her *Notes by the Translator*, that:

The Analytical Engine has no pretensions whatever to originate anything. It can do whatever we know how to order it to perform. It can follow analysis; but it has no power of anticipating any analytical relations or truths. Its province is to assist us in making available what we are already acquainted with. This it is calculated to effect primarily and chiefly of course, through its executive faculties; but it is likely to exert an indirect and reciprocal influence on science itself in another manner. For, in so distributing and combining the truths and the formulæ of analysis, that they may become most easily and rapidly amenable to the mechanical combinations of the engine, the relations and the nature of many subjects in that science are necessarily thrown into new lights, and more profoundly investigated. This is a decidedly indirect, and a somewhat speculative, consequence of such an invention.

Just over 100 years later, when Alan Turing famously revisited the issue of artificial intelligence in his own paper *Computing Machinery and Intelligence*, and introduced his [now-famous Turing Test](#), he dubbed this Lady Lovelace’s Objection.

What to do?

Next time you find yourself writing code such as...

- A funky thing: the Ackermann function.
- Computable, but not primitive recursive!
- (You can't write it with plain old for
- loops, yet you can be sure it will finish,
- even if it takes a looooooong time.)

```
local ack = function(m,n)
  if m == 0 then return n+1 end
```

	<pre> if n == 0 then return ack(m-1,1) end return ack(m-1,ack(m,n-1)) end </pre> <p>...remember that recursive subroutines of this sort all started in the scientific imagination of someone who knew what a computer should look like, and what it probably would look like, but yet lived (and sadly died very young) 100 years before any such device ever existed for her to hack on for real.</p> <p>Hacking on actual computers is one thing, but hacking purposefully on imaginary computers is, these days, something we can only imagine.</p> <p>Happy Ada Lovelace Day!</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 State of ransomware in financial services
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/resource/ransomware/state-of-ransomware-in-financial-services
GIST	<p>Ransomware is a scourge suffered by organizations across the industry spectrum, but financial services continues to be particularly hard hit, according to the latest Sophos report on The State of Ransomware in Financial Services.</p> <p>Ransomware is nothing new to financial industry cybersecurity professionals, who have seen these attacks wreak havoc on institutions big and small for more than half a dozen years. And in recent months, ransomware attacks have stepped up, putting them front and center for the industry.</p> <p>Indeed, financial IT security professionals and researchers alike have pointed out how ransomware attacks are not only becoming more pervasive, but more sophisticated — creating a wave of new threats that even the most security-conscious banks and investment firms are hard-pressed to stop.</p> <p>Rise in ransomware attacks against financial services</p> <p>In 2021, more than half (55%) of financial service firms were victims of at least one ransomware attack, up from 34% the previous year, representing a 62% rise in these threats in just one year, according to Sophos' report. The study was derived from research Sophos commissioned with Vanson Bourne, which surveyed 5,600 IT professionals, including 444 from financial services in the first two months of 2022.</p> <p>Among the report's key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ransomware attacks on financial services increased – 55% of organizations were hit in 2021, up from 34% in 2020. • The increased attack rate is part of a cross-sector, global trend. Even though the attack rates are higher in 2021, financial services reported the lowest attack rates of all sectors. • Financial services reported the second-lowest rate of data encryption at 54%. The global average was 65%, for comparison. • 52% of financial services organizations paid the ransom to restore data, which is higher than the global average of 46%. • The amount of data restored by financial services has remained constant at 63% across 2020 and 2021; the global average is 61%. However, the percentage of financial services organizations that got ALL their encrypted data back went up from 4% in 2020 to 10% in 2021. For comparison, the global average in 2021 was just 4%. • The rate of ransom payment by the financial services sectors more than doubled: up from 25% in 2020 to 52% in 2021. The global average in 2021 was 46%. • The average remediation cost in financial services was US\$1.59M, which is above the global average of US\$1.4M. • 83% of financial services organizations reported having cyber insurance coverage against ransomware, which is in line with the global average. • Cyber insurance is driving financial services to improve cyber defenses – 98% of financial services organizations have upgraded their cyber defenses to secure coverage.

- Financial services has one of the lowest ransom payout rates by insurers: 32% compared to 40% across all sectors.

Invest now or pay later

In many ways, the Sophos findings are consistent with what CyberRisk Alliance Business Intelligence found during [a ransomware survey earlier this year](#). In the survey of 300 IT and cybersecurity decision-makers and influencers, 43% of respondents suffered at least one ransomware attack during the past two years. Among them, 58% paid a ransom, 29% found their stolen data on the dark web, and 44% suffered financial losses.

Remote workers and cloud platforms/apps were the three most common attack vectors. Meanwhile, exploitable vulnerabilities accounted for the most common initial infection point (63%), followed by privilege escalation (33%), credential exfiltration (32%), and adverse mapped shares (27%).

Companies are not taking the threat lying down: 62% said they will increase ransomware protection spending in the next two years.

A steep, uphill climb

The increasing rate of ransomware attacks in financial services demonstrates that adversaries have become considerably more capable of executing attacks at scale by successfully deploying the ransomware-as-a-service model.

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Read the full report: [The State of Ransomware in Financial Services 2022](#).

HEADLINE	10/11 Killnet targeted JP Morgan's infrastructure
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/analysis/cybercrime/amid-reports-of-jp-morgan-cyberattack-experts-call-killnet-unsophisticated-media-hungry
GIST	<p>Russian hacktivist group Killnet, well-known for its flair for publicity, made more news today when it reportedly blocked J.P. Morgan's infrastructure, but failed to impact the bank's operations.</p> <p>These reports came one day after Killnet attacked airport websites in 24 states, disrupting service, but causing no real business damage or serious data exfiltration.</p> <p>Security researchers said Killnet's attacks remain relatively unsophisticated and unchanged, but the group is nonetheless persistent with its DDoS attacks.</p> <p>"While DDoS attacks can be classified as a nuisance, if successful, these attacks can result in websites or services being taken down for long periods of time," said Ivan Righi, senior cyber threat intelligence analyst at Digital Shadows. "This threat is notably higher for critical sectors, where even short downtimes can have significant consequences."</p> <p>Killnet was not initially created to be a hacktivist group. Rather, the moniker stems from a tool that hackers could use to launch DDoS attacks, Righi noted. The tool was advertised on the Killnet Telegram channel in January 2022, and then Killnet transformed from a criminal service provider to a hacktivist group with the Russia-Ukraine war.</p> <p>"Killnet now launches DDoS attacks against countries supporting Ukraine, opposing Russia, and NATO countries," Righi said. "DDoS attacks by Killnet have resulted in websites being taken down temporarily, but attacks do not typically last more than a few hours or, in very rare cases, a couple of days. Killnet typically switches targets daily."</p> <p>Take much of this with a grain of salt</p> <p>Pascal Geenens, director of threat intelligence for Radware, said the incendiary rhetoric of KillMilk, the founder of Killnet, must be taken with a grain of salt.</p>

	<p>“KillMilk wants to prove that U.S. cyber defenses are not what they claim to be,” said Geenens. “KillMilk, a self-proclaimed hero of Russia, is known to be very media hungry and an attention seeker. He likes to be in the spotlight.”</p> <p>The criticism among security pros has been that Killnet are a bunch of young hackers that do mostly ineffectual, low-level DDoS attacks. But Geenens maintains that they are not teenagers.</p> <p>“Their oldest member recently celebrated his 60th birthday,” Geenens said. “Killnet was already on underground forums, advertising a DDoS-as-a-service before the war started. I’ve seen Killnet asking for donations to fund their attack servers. They are not your typical script kiddie. Many of the people behind hacker groups have day-time jobs in IT – some are database administrators, others network admins, and some even work in security.”</p> <p>However, Geenens said he wouldn’t give Killnet too much credit, pointing out that they are not a sophisticated actor.</p> <p>“At some point, over the summer, they wanted to pivot from DDoS to breaching and destroying systems with wipers,” Geenens said. “Lockheed Martin was supposed to be their turning point, but that did not end well for Killnet, so they have returned to mainly using DDoS.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 New wave of PayPal invoice scams
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/paypal-invoice-scams-using-crypto/
GIST	<p>A new wave of PayPal invoice scams have been found using blockchain/cryptocurrency-related businesses as their disguise, security researchers from Japanese cybersecurity vendor Trend Micro found on October 09, 2022.</p> <p>While the scammers use a very common method, impersonating PayPal sellers to send random target invoices via PayPal systems saying users have been charged an amount of money and pushing them to click on malicious links, they use the names of famous companies/tokens on different blockchains to do so.</p> <p>Among the examples mentioned by Trend Micro are Stellar XLM, Bitcoin Exchange, Terra Luna Classic, Oasis Network and TrueUSD.</p> <p>The Japanese vendor also provides some tips to protect yourself against these scams better:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double-check contact details and URLs. Be wary of any unexpected/unauthorized charges that come in via email — even if the email itself comes from a legitimate company such as PayPal. (Note: In some cases, the email itself is indeed generated by PayPal’s service) • Reach out to official websites and support pages directly for help if in doubt. You can also forward suspected scam emails to spoof@paypal.com • Never click on links or call numbers
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HEADLINE	10/11 POLONIUM ‘Creepy’ malware against Israel
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/hacking-group-polonium-uses-creepy-malware-against-israel/
GIST	<p>Security researchers reveal previously unknown malware used by the cyber espionage hacking group ‘POLONIUM,’ threat actors who appear to target Israeli organizations exclusively.</p> <p>According to ESET, POLONIUM uses a broad range of custom malware against engineering, IT, law, communications, marketing, and insurance firms in Israel. The group’s campaigns are still active at the time of writing.</p>

Microsoft's Threat Intelligence team [first documented](#) the group's malicious activities in June 2022, linking POLONIUM threat actors in Lebanon with ties to Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS).

The POLONIUM toolset

[ESET reports](#) that POLONIUM is solely interested in cyberespionage and does not deploy data wipers, ransomware, or other file-damaging tools.

Since September 2021, the hackers have used at least seven variants of custom backdoors, including four new undocumented backdoors known as 'TechnoCreep', 'FlipCreep', 'MegaCreep', and 'PapaCreep.'

Some backdoors abuse legitimate cloud services, such as OneDrive, Dropbox, and Mega, to act as command and control (C2) servers. Other backdoors utilize standard TCP connections to remote C2 servers or get commands to execute from files hosted on FTP servers.

While not all backdoors have the same features, their malicious activity includes the ability to log keystrokes, take screenshots of the desktop, take photos with the webcam, exfiltrate files from the host, install additional malware, and execute commands on the infected device.

The most recent backdoor, PapaCreep, spotted in September 2022, is the first one in C++, whereas the hackers wrote older versions either in PowerShell or C#.

PapaCreep is also modular, breaking its command execution, C2 communication, file upload, and file download functions into small components.

The advantage is that the components can run independently, persist via separate scheduled tasks in the breached system, and make the backdoor harder to detect.

Besides the 'Creepy' variants, POLONIUM also uses various open source tools, either custom or off-the-shelf, for reverse proxying, screenshot taking, keylogging, and webcam snapping, so there's a level of redundancy in the operations.

An elusive hacking group

ESET couldn't discover POLONIUM's tactics used to initially compromise a network, but Microsoft previously reported that the group was using known VPN product flaws to breach networks.

The threat actor's private network infrastructure is hidden behind virtual private servers (VPS) and legitimate compromised websites, so mapping the group's activities remains murky.

POLONIUM is a sophisticated and highly targeted threat whose crosshairs are fixed at Israel right now, but this could change any moment if the priorities or interests change.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Russia: Meta an 'extremist' organization
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/technology/russia-labels-meta-an-extremist-org-sends-legal-threats-to-users/
GIST	<p>Rosfinmonitoring, Russia's Federal Financial Monitoring Service, has added Meta, the owner of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, to its list of terrorists and extremists.</p> <p>Meta was officially designated as a terrorist organization for the first time in Russia in March 2022, when a Moscow court claimed the world's most popular social media platform hosted what they ruled as misinformation.</p> <p>A month later, in April, Mark Zuckerberg was among several technology company executives banned from entering Russia due to allegedly promoting a "Russophobic" agenda.</p>

However, adopting the "terrorist" classification for Meta by the Federal State marks a new development, leaving millions of Russian users of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp unsure about what this means.

Russian internet rights organization Roskomsvoboda consulted its lawyers on the meaning of Meta's inclusion in Rosfinmonitoring's list, and [they said](#) this development shouldn't prevent users from continuing to use the social media service.

Instead, Meta's inclusion on the extremist list blocks all financial transactions with the company and its subsidiaries or brands.

This means that Russia-based users will not be able to legally use monetization options on Instagram or Facebook, run advertisements on the platform, or perform any transactions on shops hosted on either platform.

It is worth noting that Facebook had [already stopped offering](#) the ability to create and run advertisement campaigns for Russian users and companies since March 2022 due to "operational difficulties."

However, Russian lawyer Pavel Chikov is painting a different picture on Telegram today, saying that the prosecutor's office has now started distributing warnings to users of Facebook and Instagram, who are threatened with administrative and criminal liability for posting on the platforms.

According to the Russian human rights media project OVD-Info, which has been outlawed in its home country since September 29, 2022, this practice is illegal.

In a Telegram post today, OVD-Info reminds users that these notices are neither legally binding nor have any legal basis, so they may as well be ignored.

Illegal as these notices may be, it does not diminish Russian users' fears, as the authorities have already targeted notable Instagram users in Russia, [prosecuting them](#) for posting advertisements on the platform.

Meanwhile, the western world has taken steps against Russian social media platforms, including removing all VKontakte apps from the Apple App Store.

While this was merely a move to comply with sanctions against Russia, Roskomnadzor, the country's internet watchdog, has [demanded explanations](#) from the American tech firm and accused it of applying discriminatory restrictions.

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HEADLINE	10/11 New zero-day bug hack Exchange Servers
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/microsoft-exchange-servers-hacked-to-deploy-lockbit-ransomware/
GIST	<p>Microsoft is investigating reports of a new zero-day bug abused to hack Exchange servers which were later used to launch Lockbit ransomware attacks.</p> <p>In at least one such incident from July 2022, the attackers used a previously deployed web shell on a compromised Exchange server to escalate privileges to Active Directory admin, steal roughly 1.3 TB of data, and encrypt network systems.</p> <p>As described by South Korean cybersecurity firm AhnLab, whose forensic analysis experts were hired to help with the investigation, it took the threat actors only a week to hijack the AD admin account from when the web shell was uploaded.</p> <p>AhnLab says the Exchange servers were likely hacked using an "undisclosed zero-day vulnerability," given that the victim received technical support from Microsoft to deploy quarterly security patches after a previous compromise from December 2021.</p>

"Among the vulnerabilities disclosed after May, there were no reports of vulnerabilities related to remote commands or file creation," [AhnLab explained](#).

"Therefore, considering that WebShell was created on July 21, it is expected that the attacker used an undisclosed zero-day vulnerability."

As a Microsoft spokesperson told BleepingComputer earlier today, the company is "investigating the claims in this report and will take any action needed to help protect customers."

New Microsoft Exchange zero-days?

While Microsoft is [currently working on security patches](#) to address [two actively exploited Microsoft Exchange zero-days](#) tracked as CVE-2022-41040 and CVE-2022-41082, AhnLab added that the one used to gain access to the Exchange server in July might be different since attack tactics don't overlap.

"There is a possibility that the vulnerabilities of Microsoft Exchange Server (CVE-2022-41040, CVE-2022-41082) disclosed by GTSC, a Vietnamese security company, on September 28 were used, but the attack method, the generated WebShell file name, and subsequent attacks after WebShell creation," AhnLab says.

"It is presumed that a different attacker used a different zero-day vulnerability."

Although differences in the delivery method can't be considered enough evidence the attackers used a new zero-day and security experts are also [not convinced](#) this is the case, at least one more security vendor knows of three other undisclosed Exchange flaws and provides "vaccines" to block exploitation attempts.

Discovered by Zero Day Initiative vulnerability researcher [Piotr Bazydło](#) and reported to Microsoft three weeks ago, they are tracked by cybersecurity software firm Trend Micro tracks as [ZDI-CAN-18881](#), [ZDI-CAN-18882](#), and [ZDI-CAN-18932](#) after its analysts validated the issues.

The company has also [added detection signatures](#) for these Exchange zero-days (tagged as critical severity by Trend Micro) to its IPS N-Platform, NX-Platform, or TPS products since October 4, 2022.

"This filter protects against exploitation of a zero-day vulnerability affecting Microsoft Exchange," Trend Micro says in a Digital Vaccine support document.

Microsoft hasn't disclosed any information regarding these three security flaws since they were reported and is yet to assign a CVE ID to track them.

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HEADLINE	10/12 Covid phishing abuses Google Forms
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/google-forms-abused-in-new-covid-19-phishing-wave-in-the-us/
GIST	<p>COVID-19-themed phishing messages are once again spiking in the U.S. following a prolonged summer hiatus that appears to be over.</p> <p>According to a report by email security company INKY shared with BleepingComputer before publication, the malspam volumes have doubled in September compared to the previous three months and are set to rise even more.</p> <p>In the latest attacks, phishing emails impersonate the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and abuse Google Forms to host phishing pages that steal the personal details of business owners.</p>

The SBA ran COVID-19 financial recovery programs in the past, which adds legitimacy to the campaign, especially for previous beneficiaries. However, the organization is currently not running any similar initiatives.

Business support grants

The lures used in the phishing emails are for pandemic financial support programs like the “Paycheck Protection Program”, “Revitalization Fund”, and “COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan.”

The emails entice recipients to apply for the program by clicking on an embedded button that takes them to a Google Forms page.

Abusing form builders is [a common tactic](#) for phishers, who take advantage of the free hosting, encrypted data traffic, and brand recognition and trustworthiness that come with them.

The phishing forms mimic the content SBA used in legitimate support programs, requesting the applicants to enter much of the same information.

This includes their Google account credentials, SSNs, EINs, State ID and driver’s license details, and bank account number.

Clicking on “Submit” siphons all data to the crooks while displaying a reassuring “Your response has been recorded” message.

How to spot fakes

As the northern hemisphere moves towards colder months, COVID-19 infections are expected to spike, and so is pandemic-themed phishing.

Business owners are advised to remain vigilant and treat all incoming messages offering financial support with suspicion, checking sender details, domains it links to, etc.

In this case, the phishing email content isn’t free of grammar errors that aren’t expected in genuine SBA communications.

At the same time, the capitalization of ‘GRANT’ throughout the email body is a clear sign of unprofessionalism, which is a big red flag.

Google Forms, which the threat actors abuse, contains a warning never to submit passwords on the platform, which is Google’s attempt to minimize the effects of the abuse they know takes place on its forms builder.

Finally, the SBA would not request that information be submitted on Google Forms but rather directly on their site.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Lufthansa: no Apple AirTags on baggage
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/11/travel/lufthansa-apple-airtags-luggage.html
GIST	<p>Lufthansa, a German airline, set off confusion recently after telling passengers that they could not use trackers like Apple AirTags in checked baggage because of international guidelines for personal electronic devices. Apple rejected that interpretation on Tuesday, saying its trackers comply with all regulations.</p> <p>It does not appear that any other airlines are requiring passengers to turn off the trackers, which have become popular as a way to find lost baggage. Lufthansa found itself in the middle of the issue when reports surfaced in the German news media that the devices were prohibited.</p>

Though Lufthansa said it has no desire to prohibit the devices that it deemed safe, the airline seems to have stepped in a mess based on the reading of obscure international guidelines and regulations, with no clear consensus on what is and is not allowed in Europe.

Regulators in the United States have said the trackers, which use Bluetooth technology and do not interfere with the airplanes' communications equipment, are permitted in carry-on or checked baggage. A variety of other companies sell similar trackers, [including Tile, which is popular with users of Android phones](#).

Lufthansa [said on Sunday](#) on Twitter that the trackers must be deactivated in checked baggage on its flights, citing the International Civil Aviation Organization's guidelines for dangerous goods as well as the trackers' "transmission function." Shutting off the trackers renders them useless.

The airline has not issued a specific policy prohibiting baggage trackers. Rather, it says it is at the mercy of the rules. On Tuesday, the airline said it was "in close contact with the respective institutions to find a solution as quickly as possible." It also indicated its own examination saw no danger from their use.

"The Lufthansa Group has conducted its own risk assessment with the result that tracking devices with very low battery and transmission power in checked luggage do not pose a safety risk," said Martin Leutke, a Lufthansa spokesman. "We have never issued a ban on devices like that. It is on the authorities to adapt regulations that right now limit the use of these devices for airline passengers in checked luggage."

In its statement, Apple said that AirTags are "compliant with international airline travel safety regulations for carry-on and checked baggage."

The devices use Bluetooth Low Energy, the same technology commonly used by wireless headphones, which are permitted on flights. They are tracked by sharing their last location via a secure signal to nearby Apple devices.

Apple said the international aviation body does not have specific standards for cargo tracking devices, and its definition of personal consumer electronic devices is focused on larger devices, including phones, cameras and laptops. These tend to have larger lithium batteries.

Apple said AirTags use CR2032 coin cell batteries. These small lithium batteries are commonly used in watches and key fobs. Apple said those batteries have been approved for all baggage by the Federal Aviation Administration, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency and the International Air Transport Association, an airlines trade group.

An [F.A.A. advisory from 2017 allows devices](#) to use low-powered wireless communication like Bluetooth on board planes in the United States. In a statement on Monday, the Transportation Security Administration confirmed Apple's view that "tracking devices are allowed in both carry-on and checked bags."

On Tuesday, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency said that its regulation "does not in itself ban or allow devices such as the Apple AirTags." But the E.A.S.A. seemed to kick the matter back to Lufthansa, saying, "It is the responsibility of operators to prohibit the use of devices which could adversely affect the flight safety or the aircraft's systems."

The specification on dangerous goods from the International Civil Aviation Organization says that "batteries contained in portable electronic devices should be carried as carry-on baggage," but that if checked "the devices must be completely switched off (not in sleep or hibernation mode)." It was not immediately clear how the guidelines address the issue of Bluetooth Low Energy transmissions.

But the organization also said in a statement that it is not a regulator and "does not play an oversight role" over the airlines. Rather, its guidelines on what passengers may and may not do, and similar advice from the international trade group, trickle down to the regulators and airlines, which set policy.

HEADLINE	10/11 FBI: online scams targeting elderly on rise
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/fbi-report-shows-scams-targeting-elders-on-the-rise-fbi-reports-crime-scammers-nigerian-fbi-17-billion-elder-fraud-scammers#
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (TND) — Older Americans are increasingly targeted by online scammers aiming to steal large amounts of money through various schemes.</p> <p>A new report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation says the problem is getting worse to the tune of \$1.7 billion in 2021. According to the FBI, the number of elderly victims is rising at an alarming rate with total losses up 74% from 2021 compared to 2020.</p> <p>Angie Kennard's late father Donald Griffith had an incredibly successful life.</p> <p>"He owned his own commercial construction business," Kennard said. "All the concrete work in the Pentagon like my dad was behind a lot of that work so he's a super intelligent man."</p> <p>During his later years, Griffith turned to online dating, striking up a digital romance with someone named Mary Blake. Blake frequently needed cash.</p> <p>"It started a few hundred dollars at a time working its way up to you know \$20,000, \$40,000 at a time," Kennard said.</p> <p>There was little she could do to protect her dad. His doctors said he was mentally fit at the time but after his death, she learned the full extent of losses, which was \$750,000.</p> <p>"It was crazy to even imagine that he would do something like this and give all his money away to someone he had never met. They just really manipulated his mind," said Kennard.</p> <p>Last year more than 92,000 victims over the age of 60 lost a staggering \$1.7 billion to elder fraud scam — a giant increase from the year before.</p> <p>Kennard sent evidence of her dad's scam to the FBI's online crime unit and investigators told her this helped them catch the Nigerian crime ring responsible for targeting her dad and others.</p> <p>If you or a family member is a victim of elder fraud you can file a complaint through the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Seattle crypto exchange Bittrex record fine
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/seattle-crypto-exchange-bittrex-faces-record-for-violating-u-s-sanctions/
GIST	<p>Seattle-based crypto exchange Bittrex was fined \$24 million by U.S. authorities on Tuesday for helping clients evade U.S. sanctions in places such as Syria, Iran and Crimea.</p> <p>It is the largest penalty ever levied against a crypto currency exchange by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the agency said.</p> <p>The Treasury Department said that Bittrex allowed customers in Cuba, Syria, Iran, Sudan and the disputed region of Crimea to trade approximately \$263.5 million worth of digital currencies between 2014 and 2017. In its statement, the U.S. said that Bittrex should have been aware these customers were in sanctioned parts of the world due to their physical addresses as well as their IP addresses.</p> <p>In one case, a customer in Iran gave a physical address in Iran and uploaded an Iranian passport to verify identification.</p>

“When virtual currency firms fail to implement effective sanctions compliance controls, including screening customers located in sanctioned jurisdictions, they can become a vehicle for illicit actors that threaten U.S. national security,” said OFAC Director Andrea Gacki in a statement.

The sanctions violations were quite extensive, with OFAC finding 116,421 apparent violations of U.S. sanctions programs over the three years. The company did not apparently have any internal controls in place for sanctions until October 2017.

Bittrex, which lists an address in downtown Seattle’s Columbia Center tower, said it was “pleased” to settle these charges with U.S. authorities, and noted that regulators were not asking for Bittrex to make any additional changes to its anti-money laundering systems, which had been updated after 2018.

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Terrorism, Extremism

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HEADLINE	10/12 US restricts visas for Taliban members
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2022/10/12/Afghanistan-visa-restrictions-women-repression/2301665548554/
GIST	<p>Oct. 12 (UPI) -- The Biden administration has imposed new visa restrictions on current and former members of the Afghanistan government over its repression of women and girls.</p> <p>Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday that the visa restriction policy will apply to current and former Taliban, members of non-state security groups and others believed to be responsible or complicit in the government's repressive policies.</p> <p>"We continue to press the Taliban and others to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms -- including the right to education -- of all Afghans, including women and girls," Blinken tweeted.</p> <p>The Taliban regained control of Afghanistan amid the U.S. military's withdrawal from the country in late August of 2021. As it retook the helm of the Middle Eastern nation, the Taliban vowed to protect the rights women and girls had gained in the last 20 years following the United States invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.</p> <p>In the year since regaining power, human rights violations committed against women and girls under the Taliban "have mounted steadily," according to an August United Nations report on the topic.</p> <p>Violations include escalating restrictions on women's movement and bodies, including mandating women to cover their faces in public and for them to remain at home unless it is necessary for them to go outside.</p> <p>The Taliban also made Afghanistan the only country in the world to bar girls from attending high school when they said sixth grade is the highest level of education a girl may achieve.</p> <p>Blinken described the regression of women's rights in Afghanistan as having effectively barred them from full participating in public life.</p> <p>"We call on other governments to join us in taking similar actions and to continue to underscore a collective message that only a government in Afghanistan that represents all its people and protects and promotes the human rights of every individual could be considered legitimate," he said in a statement.</p> <p>The individuals specifically targeted in Tuesday's move were not identified.</p> <p>The measure was also imposed on the United Nations' International Day of the Girl Child.</p>

HEADLINE	10/11 Canada adds IRGC to terror blacklist
SOURCE	https://www.tv7israelnews.com/canada-adds-irgc-to-terror-blacklist/
GIST	<p>“The IRGC leadership are terrorists, The IRGC is a terrorist organization,” announced Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland in an unequivocal statement, stressing that, “by listing the IRGC under IRPA (Immigration and Refugee Protection Act) and indeed by listing the broader leadership of the Iranian regime – we are formally recognizing that fact and acting accordingly.”</p> <p>The decision, she said would bar over “10,000 senior members of this terrorist organization” from “ever setting foot in Canada.” Every Iranian on the list will be sanctioned, prohibited from doing business or hiding assets in Canada.</p> <p>“We will strengthen our crackdown on Iranian money laundering in Canada. We will not tolerate financial transactions with Iran that are associated with the IRGC and its proxies,” pledged the Deputy Premier, underscoring that, “Canada will not be a haven for the IRGC, for its money, for its leaders or for their henchmen.”</p> <p>The IRGC is an elite paramilitary force that was founded during the Islamic Revolution in 1979. It acts separately from the country’s armed forces, with its own land, air and naval divisions; and its Quds Force special operations unit works to foster the Islamic Republic’s terrorist proxies such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.</p> <p>Israel, the United States, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have already officially designated the IRGC as a terrorist organization. In fact, is the only state entity on the US State Department’s blacklist of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs).</p> <p>Ottawa’s decision to blacklist the IRGC follows mounting domestic criticism of the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over prolonged inaction. It also comes amid mass anti-government demonstrations in Iran calling for the downfall of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi following the death of a young Iranian woman in police custody after her arrest by so-called “morality police.”</p> <p>“The Iranian regime is a state sponsor of terrorism. It is repressive, theocratic and misogynist,” declared Canadian Deputy Premier Freeland, emphasizing that the government stands with “Canadians who are demanding justice for their friends, their families, and for all of the people, for all of the women of Iran.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Germany: teen planned school bomb attack
SOURCE	https://www.barrons.com/articles/german-teen-charged-with-planning-school-bomb-attack-01665484807?noredirect=y
GIST	<p>German prosecutors on Tuesday said they had charged a 17-year-old boy with allegedly planning a May school bomb attack that was only narrowly avoided when he was arrested the day before.</p> <p>The suspect, named as Jeremy R., planned the "right-wing extremist motivated attack" on a school he attended in the city of Essen using explosives and various other weapons, federal prosecutors said in a statement.</p> <p>"Teachers and a larger number of pupils were to be killed" in the massacre planned for May 13, they said.</p> <p>Jeremy R., who was 16 at the time of his arrest, had allegedly acquired the necessary materials to assemble pipe bombs and obtained information on the internet about how to build them.</p> <p>He had also assembled weapons including knives, brass knuckles, machetes, crossbows and arrows as well as firearms, the prosecutors said.</p>

	<p>Police in Essen stormed the teen's room overnight on May 12, uncovering anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim materials as well as his own writings which suggested he was suffering from serious psychiatric problems.</p> <p>Investigators at the time said they had been tipped off by another teen who informed them that the young man "wanted to place bombs in his school", located about 800 metres from his home.</p> <p>School massacres are relatively rare in Germany, which has some of the strictest gun laws in Europe.</p> <p>But a recent spate of incidents has rattled the country.</p> <p>A few days after Jeremy R. was arrested, a 21-year-old gunman opened fire at a secondary school in northern Germany, badly injuring a female member of staff before being arrested.</p> <p>In January, an 18-year-old student opened fire in a lecture hall at Heidelberg University in southwestern Germany, killing a young woman and injuring three others before fleeing the scene and turning the weapon on himself.</p>
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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	10/11 Silverdale hospital calls 911: staff shortage
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/staffing-issues-silverdale-hospital-calls-911/281-67b1f713-5775-400e-8fd3-e37fc35c5bd3
GIST	<p>SILVERDALE, Wash. — Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue was surprised to get a call from 911 dispatch on Saturday, sending them to St. Michael Medical Center, because the call wasn't for a fire.</p> <p>“The charged nurse from inside the emergency room called 911,” said Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue Chief Jay Christian. “The charging nurse said twice, 'we're drowning,' conveying that they only had five nurses on duty and 45 patients in their waiting room, and she was asking for help from local firefighters to come work inside of the ER to help relieve some of that pressure.”</p> <p>Fire crews that were dispatched spent an hour and a half supporting St. Michael's ER staff by monitoring vital signs and cleaning beds.</p> <p>Staffing issues at the hospital are well known to Poulsbo Fire Chief James Gillard, and the ripple effect it's had on first responders.</p> <p>“We started noticing in July our wait times, from the time we took a patient to the emergency department to the time we were able to transfer care was starting to get extended,” Gillard said. “The concern for that was our patients not being able to get the care they needed and also the EMS and emergency response units not being able to return to service.”</p> <p>Chief Gillard says the wait times would have some crews out of service for more than six hours.</p> <p>But Gillard says since St. Michael is the only hospital on the peninsula, there are few options to choose from.</p> <p>“In Kitsap Peninsula, we only have the one hospital, and that's St. Michaels, so that's one area where it's impactful to us when wait times are longer because we don't have another solution that's close,” he explained.</p>

Chief Gillard wants to reassure Kitsap County that despite the wait times, the county's 911 and EMS systems are still intact, and promises that if you call 911, the fire department will make sure you get the help you need. But he hopes something will change to keep this from happening again.

"We want to find solutions to make sure this doesn't happen again, but we are always here to help," he said.

St. Michael Medical Center sent KING 5 a statement that reads:

"At St. Michael Medical Center, similar to other hospitals in the state, we've been experiencing high patient volumes and staffing shortages. We continue to prioritize patients with the most urgent medical conditions, even when we are experiencing capacity challenges. We work to manage appropriate staffing levels and to balance capacity system-wide as effectively as we can. We recognize this is a frustrating time for our patients and staff and we appreciate the support of our partners as we work to meet the healthcare needs of the community."

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HEADLINE	10/11 Extreme heat: Asia, Africa uninhabitable?
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2022/10/11/extreme-heat-heatwave-deaths/
GIST	<p>By the year 2100, extreme heat events will make parts of Asia and Africa uninhabitable for up to 600 million people, the United Nations and the Red Cross said Monday.</p> <p>Projected death rates from heat waves are "staggeringly high," comparable to all cancers or all infectious diseases, according to a report released ahead of next month's U.N. Climate Change Conference in Egypt by the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.</p> <p>The report adds to the growing number of studies that show climate change is exacerbating the magnitude and frequency of extreme weather events. Heat waves in the Western United States this year broke hundreds of records after days of triple-digit temperatures and weeks of dry weather.</p> <p>The report's findings "are startling and disturbing," the authors wrote. Heat waves "will become deadlier with every further increment of climate change. We hope this report serves not only as a wake-up call but also a road map."</p> <p>In a stark scenario, which would result if "little is done to curb carbon emissions," densely populated urban centers in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa will suffer from "recurring life-threatening" heat events that bring temperatures beyond the human survivability threshold.</p> <p>That would affect 600 million people in countries such as India, Indonesia, Sudan and Kuwait, according to the report. Many of those regions are already experiencing increasingly hot and frequent heat events.</p> <p>This year, India and Pakistan suffered a scorching streak that began in March. It shortened the school calendar and cut crop yields as the mercury reached 117 degrees Fahrenheit. Last year, parts of the Middle East topped 125 degrees during a heat wave. Five years before, a Kuwaiti town logged 129 degrees.</p> <p>By the end of this century, one-third of the global population could be living in areas with average temperatures above 84 degrees, which until now has been limited to 0.8 percent of the world's land surface, mostly in Africa's Sahara region, according to the report, which cited a 2019 study.</p> <p>Extreme heat waves will also make parts of the United States, including Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and California, less suitable for human habitation by 2070, the report said, if global temperatures rise between 2 and 2.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels.</p>

	<p>More frequent and more severe heat events will also kill more animals and destroy environments, exacerbating the fallout from such weather, according to the report. Food supplies will be disrupted, with extreme heat events potentially contributing to price volatility for staple crops like wheat.</p> <p>The fallout will be unequal. The most vulnerable and marginalized people, such as agricultural workers, migrants, the elderly, children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women, are at higher health risk from heat events, according to the report.</p> <p>Countries that are the least responsible for climate change will also bear more of the burden than richer nations that emit more greenhouse gases, the authors said. Pakistan, which has contributed less than 1 percent of global emissions for decades, suffered catastrophic floods this year that weather experts blamed on climate change.</p> <p>“Let us be clear: This is not a problem that humanitarian organizations can solve alone. The urgent priority must be large and sustained investments that mitigate climate change and support long-term adaptation for the most vulnerable people,” the report said. “Without those investments, we are destined for a future of ever larger and deadlier heat disasters.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 NASA asteroid strike results in big nudge
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/science/smashing-success-nasa-asteroid-strike-results-in-big-nudge/
GIST	<p>CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A spacecraft that plowed into a small, harmless asteroid millions of miles away succeeded in shifting its orbit, NASA said Tuesday in announcing the results of its save-the-world test.</p> <p>The space agency attempted the test two weeks ago to see if in the future a killer rock could be nudged out of Earth’s way.</p> <p>“This mission shows that NASA is trying to be ready for whatever the universe throws at us,” NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said during a briefing at the space agency’s headquarters in Washington.</p> <p>The Dart spacecraft carved a crater into the asteroid Dimorphos on Sept. 26, hurling debris out into space and creating a cometlike trail of dust and rubble stretching several thousand miles (kilometers). It took consecutive nights of telescope observations from Chile and South Africa to determine how much the impact altered the path of the 525-foot (160-meter) asteroid around its companion, a much bigger space rock.</p> <p>Before the impact, the moonlet took 11 hours and 55 minutes to circle its parent asteroid. Scientists had anticipated shaving off 10 minutes, but Nelson said the impact shortened the asteroid’s orbit by 32 minutes.</p> <p>“Let’s all just kind of take a moment to soak this in ... for the first time ever, humanity has changed the orbit” of a celestial body, noted Lori Glaze, NASA’s director of planetary science.</p> <p>Apollo astronaut Rusty Schweickart, a co-founder of the nonprofit B612 Foundation, dedicated to protecting Earth from asteroid strikes, said he’s “clearly delighted, no question about that” by the results and the attention the mission has brought to asteroid deflection.</p> <p>The team’s scientists said the amount of debris apparently played a role in the outcome. The impact may also have left Dimorphos wobbling a bit, said NASA program scientist Tom Statler. That may affect the orbit, but it will never go back to its original location, he noted.</p> <p>The two bodies originally were already less than a mile (1.2 kilometers) apart. Now they’re tens of yards (meters) closer.</p>

Neither asteroid posed a threat to Earth — and still don't as they continue their journey around the sun. That's why scientists picked the pair for this all-important dress rehearsal.

Planetary defense experts prefer nudging a threatening asteroid or comet out of the way, given years or even decades of lead time, rather than blowing it up and creating multiple pieces that could rain down on Earth.

"We really need to also have that warning time for a technique like this to be effective," said mission leader Nancy Chabot of Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, which built the spacecraft and managed the \$325 million mission.

"You've got to know they're coming," added Glaze.

Launched last year, the vending machine-size Dart — short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test — was destroyed when it slammed into the asteroid 7 million miles (11 million kilometers) away at 14,000 mph (22,500 kph).

"This is huge feat, not only in achieving the first step in possibly being able to protect ourselves from future asteroid impacts," but also for the amount of images and data collected internationally, Daniel Brown, an astronomer at Nottingham Trent University in England, said via email.

Brown also said that it's "particularly exciting" that the debris tail can be seen by amateur skygazers with medium-size telescopes.

Team scientists cautioned more work is needed to not only identify more of the countless space rocks out there, but to ascertain their makeup — some are solid, while others are rubble piles. Scouting missions might be needed, for instance, before launching impactors to deflect the orbits.

"We should not be too eager to say one test on one asteroid tells us exactly how every other asteroid would behave in a similar situation," Statler said.

Nonetheless, he and others are rejoicing over this first effort.

"We've been imagining this for years and to have it finally be real is really quite a thrill," he said.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Er: rare new blood group system discovery
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/scientists-discover-er-a-rare-new-blood-group-system/
GIST	<p><i>The Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i> - Most people know about blood group ABO, with its positives and negatives, but they aren't the only types. Now, scientists from the University of Bristol and NHS Blood & Transplant have discovered a rare new blood group system, and in the process solved two 30-year-old cases of hemolytic disease on the fetus and newborn.</p> <p>Your blood type is determined by the presence or absence of proteins known as blood groups that are present on the surface of red blood cells. When a person needs a transfusion, a mismatch of blood types can cause alloimmunization, or the generation of antibodies against the foreign blood group.</p> <p>Researchers from Bristol's School of Biochemistry and NHSBT's International Blood Group Reference Laboratory recently led a study to investigate a 30-year mystery "surrounding the basis of three known, but genetically uncharacterised, antigens that did not fit into any known blood group system," the university said in a press release.</p>

The scientists investigated people with alloantibodies against a collection of antigens — Era, Erb and Er3. They identified specific changes in the gene coding for the Piezo1 protein, which resulted in production of an altered protein on the cell surface of these individuals.

By using DNA sequencing and gene-editing techniques, the researchers showed that Piezo1 is the carrier for these sites and established Er as a new blood group system.

“This work demonstrates that even after all the research conducted to date, the simple red blood cell can still surprise us,” said Ash Toye, professor of cell biology at the University of Bristol and director of the NIHR Blood and Transplant Research Unit. “Piezo proteins are mechanosensory proteins that are used by the red cell to sense when it’s being squeezed. The protein is present at only a few hundred copies in the membrane of each cell. This study really highlights the potential antigenicity of even very lowly expressed proteins and their relevance for transfusion medicine.”

Although two variations within Er group are rare, the group studied the medical histories of two women who had lost their babies from [hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn](#). HDFN is a blood disorder that causes a baby’s red blood cells to break down quickly because of a mismatch with the mother’s red blood cells.

“This discovery solves the 30-year-plus mystery of the genetic background of this blood group system, but the most important consideration for us, in investigating these cases, was to be able to provide answers to two mothers who tragically lost their babies,” [said Nicole Thornton](#), head of Red Cell Reference at the IBGRL. “The more we know about such rare blood group variations, along with the ability to be able to test for and identify them, the better care we are able to offer to such patients in the future.”

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Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	10/11 Stolen unemployment money trickling in
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/was-stolen-unemployment-money-trickling-in-3-years-later/
GIST	<p>Nearly three years after thieves stole \$645 million in pandemic unemployment benefits from Washington state, investigators are still clawing back funds frozen in fraudsters’ bank accounts.</p> <p>On Friday, the state Attorney General’s Office filed a motion demanding Bank of America forfeit \$9.3 million left there by criminals who scammed Washington’s unemployment system in 2020.</p> <p>It’s the largest fraud-related forfeiture sought by the office, which already has filed 17 similar actions against financial institutions that appear to have been repositories of looted jobless benefits.</p> <p>“My office remains focused on recovering every dollar we can of this stolen money,” Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson said in a statement Monday.</p> <p>But the forfeiture motion also underscores how painfully incomplete fraud recovery has been — and points to a growing likelihood that much of the money that hasn’t already been returned might never be.</p> <p>“The longer it takes to work this process, the more difficult it is to recover funds,” said James Lee, chief operating officer at the Identity Theft Resource Center, a California-based nonprofit that helps identity theft victims.</p> <p>During the 2020 fraud attack, criminals used stolen Social Security numbers and other personal data to file hundreds of thousands of bogus claims for unemployment benefits from the state Employment Security Department. Other states were hit, too.</p>

The fraudsters, including many believed to be operating offshore, often directed ESD to wire the ill-gotten money into bank accounts opened specifically for criminal activities.

Friday's forfeiture filing refers to more than 1,100 accounts at Bank of America. "As a matter of policy, we cooperate with all inquiries from law enforcement," said a bank spokesperson in an email Monday.

Washington was the first state to use forfeiture as part of efforts to recover stolen pandemic benefits, Ferguson has said. Often, banks must be compelled via court order to forfeit money held in accounts.

So far, Ferguson's office has recovered a little over \$22 million from seven banks and a financial technology company using forfeiture. That brings the state's total recovery from the pandemic unemployment fraud to more than \$400 million, with most of the money returned through separate efforts in 2020, according to state data.

The AGO also has filed or plans to file another \$11.3 million in forfeiture demands, including the \$9.3 million demanded from Bank of America motion.

Most of Washington's fraud recovery came after banks themselves flagged incoming transfers as suspicious and quickly returned the money to ESD's bank, KeyBank.

In other cases, banks flagged and froze accounts because they tripped so-called red flags for fraud — among them, accounts that had received benefits from more than one state and accounts in a name that didn't match the names of the jobless claimants.

Those frozen funds often have been the target of the Attorney General's Office's forfeiture efforts.

After the fraud was discovered in spring 2020, ESD came under fire because its own fraud detection systems appeared to have missed some suspicious claims activity, [including instances where multiple claims were filed using the same gmail address.](#)

"We've made significant changes to improve security since 2020, and because fraud is ever-changing, we continue to monitor and refine our methods," said ESD Commissioner Cami Feek in a statement Monday. Although banks returned or froze many of the fraudulent transfers, law enforcement officials have speculated that [a potentially large fraction of the transferred benefits was withdrawn by the criminals or their accomplices before those accounts were frozen.](#)

For example, in the case of Washington's first forfeiture case, against TD Bank last year, AGO officials acknowledged that funds that were not either returned voluntarily by the bank or identified for forfeiture were [considered to have been removed by criminals before the accounts were locked.](#)

In the case of Bank of America, which received a total \$27 million in fraudulent payments from ESD, according to ESD data, it is not clear whether the roughly \$13 million that wasn't voluntarily returned or identified for forfeiture was withdrawn or is being held by the bank for other states also looking for recovery, said Ferguson spokesperson Brionna Aho.

Part of the problem is that some of the withdrawn funds might have been converted into other assets or moved offshore, said Lee. If funds are outside of the "traditional international banking community," Lee said, then "that money's gone. It's not coming back."

That outcome may be in the cards for Abidemi Rufai, a former Nigerian official [sentenced Sept. 26 in Tacoma federal court for stealing \\$350,763 in pandemic unemployment benefits.](#)

Although Rufai must make restitution, federal prosecutors expect they may see only a fraction of the stolen money, given that most of Rufai's remaining assets are likely no longer in the U.S. "It's really hard to get foreign assets ... in Nigeria," Assistant U.S. Attorney Seth Wilkinson, co-counsel in the case, said at the time.

	<p>But another challenge is the sheer scale of the pandemic unemployment fraud, which was so much larger than anything federal or state law enforcement had confronted, and which strained law enforcement resources.</p> <p>Each forfeiture case, for example, involves a laborious legal and accounting process in which investigators must demonstrate that funds in a given account were in fact stolen.</p> <p>“It’s just a matter of scale,” said Lee with the Identity Theft Resource Center. “If this was just the traditional kind of government benefit fraud, it wouldn’t take you three years down the road. ... But there’s only so many people who can only work so many hours to recover the funds.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/12 Calif. largest illegal pot eradication effort
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/business-crime-california-marijuana-economy-5b023f4a4c8ded22500f3faf77236a3c
GIST	<p>SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — With California’s four-year-old legal marijuana market in disarray, the state’s top prosecutor said Tuesday that he will try a new broader approach to disrupting illegal pot farms that undercut the legal economy and sow widespread environmental damage.</p> <p>The state will expand its nearly four-decade multi-agency seasonal eradication program — the largest in the U.S. that this year scooped up nearly a million marijuana plants — into a year-round effort aimed at investigating who is behind the illegal grows. The new program will attempt to prosecute underlying labor crimes, environmental crimes and the underground economy centered around the illicit cultivations, said Attorney General Rob Bonta.</p> <p>He called it “an important shift in mindset and in mission” aimed at also aiding California’s faltering legal market by removing dangerous competition.</p> <p>“The illicit marketplace outweighs the legal marketplace” Bonta said. “It’s upside down and our goal is complete eradication of the illegal market.”</p> <p>In keeping with the new approach, the annual Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) program started under Republican Gov. George Deukmejian in 1983 will become a permanent Eradication and Prevention of Illicit Cannabis (EPIC) task force, Bonta said.</p> <p>CAMP began in “a very different time, a different era, a different moment during the failed war on drugs and (at) a time when cannabis was still entirely illegal,” Bonta said.</p> <p>The seasonal eradication program, which lasts about 90 days each summer, still will continue with the cooperation of other federal, state and local agencies. They include the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, National Park Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Parks and the California National Guard, some of which will also participate in the new task force, he said.</p> <p>The task force will work with state Department of Justice prosecutors, the department’s Cannabis Control Section and an existing Tax Recovery in the Underground Economy (TRUE) task force that was created by law in 2020, all with the goal of filing civil and criminal cases against those behind illegal grows.</p> <p>Federal and state prosecutors in California have long tried, without much success, to target the organized crime cartels behind the hidden farms rather than the often itinerant laborers hired to tend and guard the often remote marijuana plots scattered across public and private land.</p> <p>The laborers frequently live in crude camps with no running water or sewers and use caustic pesticides to kill animals that might otherwise eat the growing plants. But the pollution they leave behind has spread into downstream water supplies and the pesticides can spread up through the food chain.</p>

The workers are victims of human trafficking, Bonta said, “living in squalid conditions alone for months on end and with no way out. These are not the people who are profiting from the illegal cannabis industry. They’re being abused, they’re the victims. They are cogs in a much bigger and more organized machine.”

For example, about 80% of the 44 illegal grow sites found on and around Bureau of Land Management properties this year were connected to drug trafficking organizations, said Karen Mouritsen, the bureau’s California state director.

“It’s clear that there are big challenges with respect to organized crime,” Bonta said. But he said he expects better results this time because the new year-round effort by multiple agencies “will make a big dent, a bit splash and lots of noise about our common priority to address the illicit marketplace, including at the highest levels.”

Bonta is running to keep his job from Republican challenger and former federal prosecutor Nathan Hochman in next month’s election. He is taking a familiar recent approach by Democrats nationwide in concentrating on dealers who provide illegal drugs rather than the users who support the underground economy. President Joe Biden last week said [he is pardoning](#) thousands of Americans convicted of “simple possession” of marijuana under federal law, while San Francisco officials announced a new effort to [curb open drug dealing](#).

The year-round approach “is long since overdue,” Hochman said. “Only by hitting illegal drug growers where it hurts, by seizing their plants and their proceeds, will California be able to help the legal cannabis industry survive and thrive.”

For those trying to exist under the legal market approved by California voters in 2016, the problem has been falling pot prices, restricted sales, [high taxes](#) despite [the recent repeal](#) of the cannabis cultivation tax, and the fact that buyers can find better bargains in the booming underground marketplace.

Aside from the nearly 1 million plants that Bonta valued at about \$1 billion, this year’s eradication program seized more than 100 tons of processed marijuana, 184 weapons and about 33 tons of materials used to cultivate the plants, including dams, water lines and containers of toxic chemicals including pesticides and fertilizers.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Guilty plea university mass shooting plot
SOURCE	https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/self-identified-incel-pleads-guilty-to-planning-mass-shooting-of-women-at-an-ohio-university/
GIST	<p>A local, self-identified “incel” pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio today to attempting to conduct a mass shooting of women.</p> <p>Tres Genco, 22, of Hillsboro, Ohio, admitted he plotted to commit a hate crime, namely, a plan to shoot women at a university in Ohio. He was arrested by federal agents in July 2021 and has remained in custody since.</p> <p>“The gender-based hate and bias-motivated threat of violence exhibited by this defendant simply has no place in our society,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “The Department of Justice will remain steadfast in our efforts to investigate and prosecute those who carry out, or attempt to carry out, gender-based hate crimes to the fullest extent of the law.”</p> <p>“Genco formulated a plot to kill women and intended to carry it out. Our federal and local law enforcement partners stopped that from happening,” said U.S. Attorney Kenneth L. Parker for the Southern District of Ohio. “Hate has no place in our country – including gender-based hate – and we will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to vigorously prosecute any such conduct.”</p>

“Thankfully, law enforcement partners working closely together prevented a deadly killing spree targeting women,” said Special Agent in Charge J. William Rivers for the FBI Cincinnati Field Division. “Genco’s hate-filled beliefs and actions were extremely dangerous and could have resulted in irreparable harm to our community and many precious lives. We urge the public to report concerning behavior to the FBI and local police to help prevent future violence.”

Genco identified as an “incel” or “involuntary celibate.” The incel movement is an online community of predominantly men who harbor anger towards women.

According to court documents, Genco maintained profiles on a popular incel website from at least July 2019 through mid-March 2020 and posted hundreds of times on the site.

In one post, Genco detailed spraying “some foids and couples” with orange juice in a water gun. “Foids” is an incel term short for “femoids,” referring to women. Genco compared his “extremely empowering action” to similar conduct by known incel Elliot Rodger. In May 2014, Rodger killed six people and injured 14 others, including shooting individuals outside a University of California, Santa Barbara sorority house. Prior to his mass attack, Rodger shot a group of college students with orange juice from a water gun.

Genco also wrote a manifesto, stating he would “slaughter” women “out of hatred, jealousy and revenge...” and referring to death as the “great equalizer.”

As part of this investigation, law enforcement agents discovered a note of Genco’s that indicated he hoped to “aim big” for a kill count of 3,000 people with a reference to the same date as Elliot Rodger’s attack and intended to attend military training. The investigation revealed that the day he wrote his manifesto, he searched online for sororities and a university in Ohio.

In 2019, Genco purchased tactical gloves, a bulletproof vest, a hoodie bearing the word “Revenge,” cargo pants, a bowie knife, a skull facemask, two Glock 17 magazines, a 9mm Glock 17 clip and a holster clip concealed carry for a Glock.

Genco attended Army Basic Training in Georgia from August through December 2019. He was discharged for entry-level performance and conduct.

In January 2020, Genco wrote a document entitled “isolated” that he described as “the writings of the deluded and homicidal.” Genco signed the document, “Your hopeful friend and murderer.”

Genco’s court documents detail that he conducted surveillance at an Ohio university on Jan. 15, 2020. That same day, he searched online for topics including “planning a shooting crime” and “when does preparing for a crime become an attempt?”

On March 12, 2020, Highland County sheriff’s deputies responded to a call at Genco’s residence. At the residence, in the trunk of Genco’s vehicle, police officers found, among other things, a firearm with a bump stock attached, several loaded magazines, body armor and boxes of ammunition. Inside the residence, police officers found a modified Glock-style 9mm semiautomatic pistol, with no manufacturer’s marks or serial number, hidden in a heating vent in Genco’s bedroom. As part of his plea, Genco admitted that he possessed both firearms in furtherance of his plot.

Genco pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to commit a hate crime, which, because it involved an attempt to kill, is punishable by up to life in prison.

Assistant Attorney General Clarke; U.S. Attorney Parker; Special Agent in Charge Rivers; Special Agent in Charge Daryl S. McCormick of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); and Highland County Sheriff Donnie Barrera announced the charges. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Megan Gaffney Painter and Timothy S. Mangan for the Southern District of Ohio are representing the United States in this case.

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HEADLINE	10/11 DNA profile to generate suspect's image
SOURCE	https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkgma8/police-are-using-dna-to-generate-3d-images-of-suspects-theyve-never-seen
GIST	<p>On Tuesday, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) shared a computer generated image of a suspect they created with DNA phenotyping, which it used for the first time in hopes of identifying a suspect from a 2019 sexual assault case. Using DNA evidence from the case, a company called Parabon NanoLabs created the image of a young Black man. The composite image did not factor in the suspect's age, BMI, or environmental factors, such as facial hair, tattoos, and scars. The EPS then released this image to the public, both on its website and on social media platforms including its Twitter, claiming it to be "a last resort after all investigative avenues have been exhausted."</p> <p>The EPS's decision to produce and share this image is extremely harmful, according to privacy experts, raising questions about the racial biases in DNA phenotyping for forensic investigations and the privacy violations of DNA databases that investigators are able to search through.</p> <p>In response to the EPS's tweet of the image, many privacy and criminal justice experts replied with indignation at the irresponsibility of the police department. Callie Schroeder, the Global Privacy Counsel at the Electronic Privacy Information Center, retweeted the tweet, questioning the usefulness of the image: "Even if it is a new piece of information, what are you going to do with this? Question every approximately 5'4" black man you see? ...that is not a suggestion, absolutely do not do that."</p> <p>"Broad dissemination of what is essentially a computer-generated guess can lead to mass surveillance of any Black man approximately 5'4", both by their community and by law enforcement," Schroeder told Motherboard. "This pool of suspects is far too broad to justify increases in surveillance or suspicion that could apply to thousands of innocent people."</p> <p>The victim of the case only had a limited description of the suspect, "describing him as 5'4", with a black toque, pants and sweater or hoodie" and "as having an accent," making for a vague, indistinguishable profile.</p> <p>"Releasing one of these Parabon images to the public like the Edmonton Police did recently, is dangerous and irresponsible, especially when that image implicates a Black person and an immigrant," Jennifer Lynch, the Surveillance Litigation Director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation told Motherboard. "People of color are already disproportionately targeted for criminal investigations, and this will not only exacerbate that problem, it could result in public vigilantism and real harm to misidentified individuals."</p> <p>The criminal justice and policing system is laden with racial biases. A Black person is five times more likely to be stopped by police without cause than a white person, and Black, Latinx, and people of color are more likely to be stopped, searched, and suspected of a crime even when no crime has occurred.</p> <p>Seeing the composite image with no context or knowledge of DNA phenotyping, can mislead people into believing that the suspect looks exactly like the DNA profile. "Many members of the public that see this generated image will be unaware that it's a digital approximation, that age, weight, hairstyle, and face shape may be very different, and that accuracy of skin/hair/eye color is approximate," Schroeder said.</p> <p>In response to the criticism after the release of the image and the use of DNA phenotyping, the Edmonton Police Department shared a press release Thursday morning, in which it announced it removed the composite image from its website and social media.</p> <p>"While the tension I felt over this was very real, I prioritized the investigation – which in this case involved the pursuit of justice for the victim, herself a member of a racialized community, over the</p>

potential harm to the Black community. This was not an acceptable trade-off and I apologize for this,” wrote Enyinnah Okere, the chief operating officer of EPS.

Parabon NanoLabs sent Motherboard a number of case studies where DNA phenotyping alone helped solve [murder](#) and [assault](#) cases. However, the case studies do not address the larger concerns, which are a lot harder to measure—such as how many innocent people were questioned before the final suspect was arrested, and how the suspect image may have affected the public’s racial biases.

According to Parabon, it has worked on hundreds of law enforcement investigations. [On its site are a number of case studies](#), with many showing the comparison between the DNA profile and actual photo of the suspect. There are some similarities between the two photos, in that they both reflect the same race, gender, eye and hair color. Often, however, the resemblance between the generated image and the suspect ends there.

“We’re making predictions just from the DNA, so we have only so much information. And so when we make those predictions, it’s a description and these are standing in. If the police had a witness, then they wouldn’t need us,” Dr. Ellen Greytak, the director of bioinformatics and technical lead for the Snapshot division at Parabon NanoLabs, told Motherboard. “We’re providing facts, like a genetic witness, providing this information that the detectives can’t get otherwise.”

“It’s just the same as if the police had gotten a description from someone who, maybe you know, didn’t see them up close enough to see if they had tattoos or scars, but described the person. What we find is that this can be extremely useful especially for narrowing down who it could be and eliminating people who really don’t match that prediction,” Greytak said. “In these cases, by definition, they always have DNA and so we don’t have to worry about the wrong person being picked up because they would always just match the DNA.”

According to Greytak, the technology creates the composite image by running the suspect’s DNA through machine learning models that are built on thousands of people’s DNAs and their corresponding appearances.

“The data that we have on the people with known appearances are from a variety of sources, some of them are publicly available, you can request access for them. Some of them are from studies that we’ve run, where we’ve collected that information,” Greytak said.

The DNA dataset being used to create these composites raises more red flags regarding the privacy questions of DNA profiling. The “variety of sources,” [include GEDmatch and FamilyTree DNA](#), which are open-source, free genealogy websites that give you access to millions of DNA profiles.

“People should know that if they send their DNA to a consumer-facing company, their genetic information may fall into the hands of law enforcement to be used in criminal investigations against them or their genetic relatives. None of this data is covered by federal health privacy rules in the United States,” Lynch said. “While 23 and Me and Ancestry generally require warrants and limit the disclosure of their users’ data to law enforcement, other consumer genetic genealogy companies like GEDmatch and FamilyTree DNA provide near-wholesale law enforcement access to their databases.”

Parabon NanoLabs claims that the images they generate aren’t based on race, but on their genetic ancestry. “When we talk about a person’s genetic ancestry, or biogeographic ancestry, [which] is the term that we use for that, that is a continuous measure versus race, which is categorical,” Greytak said.

However, researchers argue that taking familial origin into consideration while DNA profiling, as Parabon NanoLabs does, is not an objective measurement because it results in general populations being seen as more criminal than others.

“Whereas the conventional use of DNA profiling was primarily aimed at the individual suspect, more recently a shift of interest in forensic genetics has taken place, in which the population and the family to

whom an unknown suspect allegedly belongs, has moved center stage,” researchers led by anthropologist Amade M’charek [wrote in a study titled “The Trouble With Race in Forensic Identification.”](#) “Making inferences about the phenotype or the family relations of this unknown suspect produces suspect populations and families.”

After [a 2019 BuzzFeed investigation](#) revealed that GEDmatch allowed police to upload a DNA profile to investigate an aggravated assault, [the site changed its policies](#) so that users had to opt in to law enforcement searches. Still, investigators are able to use a number of similar databases to upload suspect’s DNA and map out the suspect’s family tree until they can pinpoint the suspect’s true identity.

A notorious case in which this tactic proved successful was in [finding the Golden State Killer](#), a serial killer named Joseph James DeAngelo. After uploading his DNA to GEDmatch, investigators were able to find one of his family members who was already in the system, and trace DeAngelo down decades after he committed the crime.

Many police departments have been collecting DNA from innocent people and people who commit minor crimes, such as [Orange County, which has a database of more than 182,000 DNA profiles](#), almost all from people who faced misdemeanor charges, which include petty theft or driving with a suspended license. Several attorneys filed a lawsuit against the county, who claim that the database is against California law. The lawsuit says that handing over DNA is a “coercive bargain,” because those who hand over a DNA sample will receive lighter punishments or even a dismissed case.

[A similar lawsuit was filed in New York City](#) by the Legal Aid Society, which accuses the city of operating a DNA database that violates state law and constitutional protections against unreasonable searches. These DNA databases again perpetuate the pervasive racial biases of the criminal justice system. Because people of color, especially Black and Latino people, make up 75 percent of people arrested in the past decade in NYC, the DNA database further inscribes criminality onto marginalized demographics.

While race isn’t necessarily measured by DNA phenotyping, race is produced semiotically by the visual nature of DNA composite profiles and in the already biased DNA datasets, which these profiles are derived from. The usage of DNA phenotyping may have broken open a few cold cases, but we have to ask: at what cost.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Detroit okays \$7M ShotSpotter surveillance
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/oct/11/detroit-contract-extend-shotspotter-surveillance-firm
GIST	<p>The city of Detroit is moving forward with a \$7m expansion of its contract with ShotSpotter, after weeks of debate on its work with the controversial surveillance company.</p> <p>The Detroit city council voted five to four on Tuesday to expand the geographic footprint of ShotSpotter in the city throughout the next four years.</p> <p>The vote had been postponed on multiple occasions, most recently to address concerns of community and city council members about an initial plan to use Covid relief money to fund the extension of the existing \$1.5m contract.</p> <p>On Tuesday, the Detroit police department came back with a proposal to use the city’s general funds instead, clearing the way for the approval of the extension.</p> <p>Still, emotions during city council meetings on the contract were high as city council members and constituents were deeply divided over the merits of the effort. “This is a tough vote,” city council president Mary Sheffield said during a 27 September city council meeting. “People are split.”</p> <p>ShotSpotter sells a system of microphones that alerts police when gunshot sounds are detected and triangulates the location of where the shots took place.</p>

The company claims its technology, which is active in more than 120 cities in the US, detects gunshots accurately 97% of the time. Police departments and elected officials across the US, including in Detroit, have used that claim to argue the technology could help curb gun violence.

But researchers, privacy advocates and some local organizers have questioned the system's efficacy, and have argued authorities are making use of a moment when American communities are reeling from gun violence to put in place technology that is unreliable at best, and at worst leads to continued over policing of Black and brown neighborhoods.

Detroit's decision comes as the city, which had among the highest rates of violent crime in 2021 [according to the FBI](#), continues to grapple with [high rates of gun violence](#).

Local officials had argued the technology could help reduce shootings. In August, the mayor of [Detroit, Mike Duggan](#), argued that an expansion of ShotSpotter could have prevented a 29 [August shooting](#) that left three people dead and one injured by notifying police sooner.

"It's a very useful tool," said Anthony O'Rourke, the captain of the Detroit police department, in a [video](#) in support of the technology. "If a victim was shot and unable to call 911, and nobody else calls 911, we have the ability to go to that area and render aid and if nothing else start an investigation on a crime that has occurred very quickly."

Some community members who lost family members to gun violence said a faster police response would be a benefit worth taking advantage of and that police should use whatever tools it has at its disposal to address the city's gun violence.

Lawanda Melton, the grandmother of [11-year-old Saniyah Pugh](#) who was fatally struck by a stray bullet while she was sleeping in June 2022, said she believed more ShotSpotters could have saved her granddaughter's life.

"It felt like hours before police got there," Melton said at a 12 September public meeting on the proposal. "I had to sit there for hours and watch my granddaughter struggle to breathe. I just want protection for other children and other families."

"Until you have kissed a child's casket ... you are not going to ever understand the impact of gun violence," echoed local activist Pastor Mo.

But privacy advocates, city council members who voted against the expansion and some local community organizations argued the system is much less effective than police and local officials give it credit for.

"[The company] and their allies tell us fantasies about how these products could have saved lives, but the facts are disturbingly different," said Albert Fox Cahn, the executive director of Surveillance Tech Oversight Project, a privacy rights advocacy organization. "When cities like Chicago have investigated the impact these systems really have, they found that the technology is error prone and invasive, sending police on a wild goose chase most of the time."

Critics of the technology pointed at a [2021 study](#) conducted by MacArthur Justice Center at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law which found that in Chicago, 89% of the time that ShotSpotter detected gunshots there was no gun-related crime and 86% of the time there was no report of any crime at all. A Journal of Urban Health study which studied 68 counties where the technology had been deployed – the largest review of ShotSpotter to this date – found that it did not reduce gun violence. And they noted that some police departments have declined to renew contracts with ShotSpotter after lackluster trials. In the city of San Antonio, Texas, which spent more than half a million dollars to test the system in 2017, local police found [no evidence of gun shots](#) in 80% of cases ShotSpotter was activated.

“I heard the cry from people on both sides of the issues,” Mary Waters, a city council member who voted against the extension, said at the 27 September meeting. “I wish I had that magic wand but we cannot ignore the fact that there’s no data that proves ShotSpotter actually works.”

Groups like Detroit Action, a local social justice organization argued the money would be better spent on services that address root causes of violence such as poverty.

“The people closest to the issues know the solution,” said Branden Snyder, Detroit Action’s executive director. “ShotSpotter specifically works to detect shots after they happen, it doesn’t stop the shots from going off.”

Instead of funding ShotSpotter, he said, the city should be focusing on funding improvements to mental health support, access to job opportunities and housing.

“Detroit was one of the hardest hit communities in 2020 from the Covid-19 pandemic and there are so many small business owners, so many working families, so many individuals in our community who are still trying to recover from the pandemic itself,” said Joanna Valezquez, a campaigns manager with the group. “Those dollars and that injection of funding could be used to help them.”

Some community members were also skeptical ShotSpotter would help deploy police more quickly, arguing when they do call police now, they don’t always come.

Detroit resident Dennis Black said he called police on Memorial day during and after a shootout took place. “No police showed up,” Black, who spoke at a September press conference organized by groups opposing the contract, said. “Even the next morning, I’m like ‘Hey, there’s still shells outside.’ Police still never showed up.”

ShotSpotter itself does not claim it can prevent crime. In its [2020 contract with Detroit](#), the company wrote that it doesn’t represent, expressly or otherwise, that its use will “result in the prevention of crime, apprehension or conviction of any perpetrator of any crime, or detection of any criminal; prevent any loss, death, injury, or damage to property due to the discharge of a firearm or other weapon”.

Sam Klepper, the company’s senior vice-president of marketing, said in a statement that “gun violence is a complex issue with no single solution” but that “ShotSpotter alerts lead to fast, precise police responses ... and lead to victims being located and saved as well as evidence being found to help identify the perpetrator.”

He said ShotSpotter has a 98% customer retention rate, and said the MacArthur Justice Center and Journal of Urban Health studies that were critical of the technology were flawed. The first draws “erroneous conclusions from researchers’ interpretation of police report categorizations, falsely equating them with no shots fired”, he asserted. The second assesses ShotSpotter’s efficacy using data across entire counties “when ShotSpotter coverage areas typically only cover a small part of counties”, he said.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Puyallup police: attempted ATM thefts
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/police-investigating-after-series-of-attempted-atm-thefts-in-puyallup#
GIST	<p>PUYALLUP, Wash. — Puyallup police are investigating a series of attempted robberies at three businesses Monday afternoon into early Tuesday morning where the suspects appear to have been trying to steal ATMs.</p> <p>The attempted break-ins occurred at U.S. Bank in the 200 block of 39th Ave. SW, Wells Fargo in the 400 block of 39th Ave. SW, and Union 76 in the 1500 block of East Main St.</p> <p>Police said just after 2 a.m. Tuesday, two masked suspects backed up to the ATM drive-through of the Wells Fargo and were seen on surveillance prying and attempting to break into the ATM, eventually ramming the ATM with a blue truck. Police responded and saw a black SUV and a truck take off through</p>

the lot onto 39th Ave. SW, but said they couldn't pursue due to recent legislation passed in Washington state dictating when police can initiate a pursuit.

Police investigating after series of attempted ATM thefts in Puyallup

"It's difficult for us, but it's also difficult for the victims," Capt. Don Bourbon with Puyallup Police said, "If we are on scene able to apprehend these individuals, and we have to let them get away, then the victims aren't getting the services they deserve too."

Under House Bill 1054 passed last year, police must have probable cause to believe a driver is impaired, a convicted felon, or committed a violent or sexual crime to initiate a pursuit.

"I think at this time we have potentially over 700 incidents where individuals in vehicles have fled from law enforcement, which is a huge increase of what it has been in the past," Capt. Bourbon said.

The business owner at Union 76 showed KOMO surveillance video captured just before 3 AM Tuesday morning, which shows someone ramming a black SUV into the business multiple times while merchandise crashes to the floor inside and a pair of hands attempts to grab the ATM through the smashed window.

Young Park, who owns the business, says even though they were unsuccessful, each time this happens the damage is costly.

"Every time this happens, it's really discouraging for a small business," Park said, "[It's] at least a thousand dollars each time."

"This break in the frame damage should be more than \$10,000 or more," he added.

Police are also investigating damage done to the ATM at the U.S. Bank just down the street from the Wells Fargo, where it appears someone burned both sides of the ATM in an attempt to get it open.

According to police, none of the ATMs were accessed or stolen.

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HEADLINE	10/11 Sunnyside police officer shot; suspect held
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/crime/sunnyside-police-officer-shot-harborview-seattle/281-5fe9671f-eb42-46b6-b007-3ad53b1be992
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — A Sunnyside Police Department officer is recovering at Harborview Medical Center in stable condition after being shot while on duty in central Washington Monday night.</p> <p>Washington State Patrol Trooper Sarah Clasen told NBC affiliate KNDU that the officer was shot near South 8th Street in Sunnyside around 8 p.m.</p> <p>KNDU reports a 44-year-old Sunnyside man was taken into custody just after 10 p.m. The man reportedly ran from the scene after the shooting and was taken into custody a few blocks away.</p> <p>The man was reportedly uncooperative and was shot with a bean bag round by Yakima SWAT so they could be detained. Two handguns were found on the man.</p> <p>The officer was flown from Sunnyside in Yakima County to King County International Airport in Seattle. The officer was then taken to Harborview Medical Center.</p> <p>The officer was shot in the neck, but is expected to recover from his injuries, according to Selah police. The officer's identity has not been released, but he is in his mid 20s, according to Selah police.</p>

	<p>A spokesperson for Harborview confirmed to KING 5 Tuesday morning a police officer from Sunnyside was transferred to the hospital and was in stable condition.</p> <p>It is currently unknown what led up to the shooting.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Concern: cholera spreads in Haiti's prisons
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/concerns-grow-cholera-spreads-haitis-prisons-91353852
GIST	<p>SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico -- A nonprofit organization on Tuesday called on Haiti's government to release certain inmates amid a swift rise in cholera cases throughout the country's severely crowded prison system and dwindling supplies of clean water.</p> <p>Health through Walls, which provides medical care to prisoners in Haiti, noted that not only inmates are at risk, but also security guards, kitchen workers and health staff.</p> <p>"Immediate action is necessary to avert more preventable deaths within the prisons," the organization said. "The situation has not been more dire."</p> <p>The call comes as Haiti remains largely paralyzed by gangs and antigovernment protesters, leading to severe shortages of fuel, water and other basic supplies as the government calls for the immediate intervention of foreign troops.</p> <p>U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said Tuesday that the government is reviewing Haiti's request for help in coordination with international partners.</p> <p>"We strongly condemn all of those who stand in the way of the equitable and immediate distribution of much-needed humanitarian supplies," he said. "This is a status quo that cannot persist, and we will continue to work and to speak with international partners on ways that we can facilitate the delivery of vital humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people, including critical medical support to address the cholera outbreak."</p> <p>U.S. Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian Nichols was scheduled to fly to Haiti on Wednesday as part of an official two-day visit.</p> <p>Overall, Haiti has reported at least 18 cholera deaths with more than 200 people hospitalized after announcing last week the first cholera deaths reported in three years. Since then, the number of cases has risen, particularly in prisons.</p> <p>Medical staff working at the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince, which is Haiti's largest prison with more than 4,000 inmates, have reported at least 21 deaths and 147 hospitalizations from Oct. 4-11, said Michelle Karshan, co-founder of the nonprofit.</p> <p>The cholera bacteria spreads easily and can cause severe diarrhea and dehydration that can be deadly.</p> <p>Haiti's 20 prisons hold roughly 11,000 inmates, and health advocates are extremely worried given that the occupancy rate in the country's four main prisons exceeds more than 400%. In addition, inmates have long faced a major shortage of food, water and medical care, according to a recent United Nations report.</p> <p>This year alone, more than 180 inmates have died of severe malnutrition, according to a letter from the United Nations' secretary-general that has not been publicized but was shared with The Associated Press on Sunday.</p> <p>The United Nations also noted in its report that there is only one doctor for more than 1,000 detainees, and that drug deliveries are "rare and limited."</p> <p>"Detainees are entirely dependent on the care provided by charitable organizations," it said.</p>

	<p>Health Through Walls asked Haiti's Justice Minister to release inmates who are critically ill, malnourished or those who have served their time but have not gone to trial, among others.</p> <p>"Pretrial detention continues to fill the prisons and is creating additional stress in the justice system during this crisis period when basic needs cannot be met," the organization said.</p> <p>More than 83% of inmates have not yet been tried, with some waiting nearly a decade for their first court appearance, according to the U.N. report.</p> <p>A spokesperson for Justice Minister Berto Dorcé could not be immediately reached for comment.</p> <p>The nonprofit's request comes just days after U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres noted in a letter to the Security Council that Haiti's prison system needs to be improved, "considering the alarmingly overcrowded prison system."</p> <p>Haiti's last cholera epidemic killed nearly 10,000 people. It began more than a decade ago after U.N. peacekeepers introduced the bacteria into the country's largest river by sewage runoff from their base.</p> <p>Among those who died was the director of Haiti's National Penitentiary, Karshan said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Charges dropped against Adnan Syed
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/prosecutors-drop-charges-adnan-syed-murder-case-made/story?id=91330971
GIST	<p>Prosecutors in Maryland have dropped charges against Adnan Syed, the man who was convicted of killing his former girlfriend in 2000, a case made popular by the 2014 "Serial" podcast that investigated issues with the prosecution.</p> <p>Syed, who is now 41, had been serving a life sentence for the past 23 years -- more than half his life -- since his arrest in 1999.</p> <p>He was just 17 when he was convicted of first-degree murder, robbery, kidnapping and imprisonment of his ex-girlfriend, Hae Min Lee, in 2000.</p> <p>On Jan. 13, 1999, 18-year-old Lee vanished after leaving Woodlawn High School in Baltimore, Maryland, where she was a senior.</p> <p>Her body was found around one month later buried in a park in Baltimore. She had been strangled.</p> <p>Syed has maintained his innocence and denied any involvement in Lee's death.</p> <p>State's Attorney for Baltimore City Marilyn Mosby said Tuesday Syed had been in prison for 23 years for a "wrongful conviction."</p> <p>"The fundamentals of the criminal justice system should be based on fair and just prosecution," Mosby told reporters in Baltimore at an afternoon news conference. "And the crux of the matter is that we are standing here today because that wasn't done 23 years ago."</p> <p>Mosby said some items had been tested that weren't previously and notably, Syed's DNA had been "excluded."</p> <p>"It is my responsibility to to acknowledge and to apologize to the family of Hae Min Lee and to the family of Adnan Syed," she said. "As the administrator of the criminal justice system, it's my duty to ensure that justice is not delayed. Justice is never denied, but justice be done. Today, justice is done. And that means today, tomorrow, and until my administration ends, we will continue to utilize every available resource to</p>

prosecute whoever is responsible for the death of hate me because this is an open and pending investigation."

Mosby said her office reached out to the lawyer for Hae Min Lee's family before they released anything publicly but they had not heard back.

"Today's a day that Adnan Syed and his loved ones have been waiting for for 23 long years. The results of the DNA testing exclude Adnan and confirm what Adnan and his supporters have always known: Adnan Syed is innocent," Assistant Public Defender and Director of the Innocence Project Clinic at University of Baltimore Law School Erica Suter told reporters Tuesday.

Syed did not appear at the virtual press conference and his lawyer requested privacy for Syed and his family so they could begin the process of healing.

"We offer our deepest sympathy to the family of Hae Min Lee and we join in the hopes that an investigation will bring them real answers and a sense of closure," Suter, one of Syed's attorneys, added.

Syed plans to spend time with his loved ones without being on home detention and without an ankle monitor, she said.

"I think he's just really elated to be able to have the small quiet everyday joys of freedom that many of us take for granted," she said.

Judge Michelle Phinn ordered Syed's release last month after [prosecutors requested that his conviction be vacated](#).

"At this time, we will remove the shackles from Mr. Syed," Phinn declared after announcing her decision from the bench.

She said then that "in the interests of fairness and justice," Syed should be released on his own recognizance after finding that prosecutors failed to turn over evidence that could have helped his trial in 2000 and after new evidence was discovered that could have affected the outcome of his case.

The Baltimore State's Attorney's Office had 30 days to decide whether to either schedule a new trial date or drop the case.

Lee's family had appealed Syed's overturned conviction, saying Mosby's office neglected to provide them adequate notice to attend the hearing. The family asked the Maryland Court of Special Appeals to pause the proceeding while the court considered their appeal.

Last week, Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh joined Lee's family in asking the state's appellate court to put a hold on Syed's case in the trial court.

It is unclear what these new developments mean for the family's appeal.

With regard to the appeal, Suter said in an earlier statement, "While the proceedings are not completely over, this is an important step for Adnan, who has been on house arrest since the motion to vacate was first granted last month. He still needs some time to process everything that has happened and we ask that you provide him and his family with that space."

In a motion filed in Baltimore City Circuit Court last month, prosecutors said that a nearly yearlong investigation conducted in collaboration with Syed's defense attorney had uncovered information pointing to the possible involvement of two "alternative suspects" as well as key evidence that didn't come up at the original trial.

Prosecutors have not named the new suspects.

	<p>Their motion detailed how one of the two suspects at one point threatened to kill Lee and both had documented records of violence toward women.</p> <p>One of the suspects was reportedly convicted of a series of rapes, according to the court documents, while one was convicted of attacking a woman.</p> <p>"After a nearly year-long investigation reviewing the facts of this case, Syed deserves a new trial where he is adequately represented and the latest evidence can be presented," Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby said last month in a statement.</p> <p>"We believe that keeping Mr. Syed detained as we continue to investigate the case with everything that we know now, when we do not have confidence in results of the first trial, would be unjust," Mosby said.</p> <p>At his original trial, prosecutors relied on testimony from a friend, Jay Wilds, who said he helped Syed dig a hole for Lee's body.</p> <p>Prosecutors presented cell phone records and expert witness testimony to place Syed at the site where Lee was buried.</p> <p>At a post-conviction hearing in 2016, a forensics expert testified that those cellphone records were unreliable and should not have been used to convict Syed.</p> <p>A 2019 appeal for a new trial was previously turned down by the U.S. Supreme Court.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 Police: Florida schools hoax shooting calls
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/police-respond-hoax-shooting-reports-multiple-florida-schools/story?id=91349369
GIST	<p>Police departments in Florida responded to "swatting" calls at multiple high schools on Tuesday.</p> <p>Swatting is a hoax where someone calls emergency services and reports a nonexistent crime to get law enforcement officials -- generally a SWAT team -- to show up to an address.</p> <p>Boca Raton police said they responded to reports of an armed person at Boca Raton High School.</p> <p>Upon arriving at and checking the school, officers determined there wasn't a shooting or a shooter on the school's campus and said that nothing suspicious was found.</p> <p>Police in Pembroke Pines, Florida, also responded to a swatting call at Flanagan High School on Tuesday, Pembroke Pines Police Department said on Twitter.</p> <p>"Our search of the school has been completed. No evidence of any crime was found," Pembroke police said. "At this time, this incident appears to be a result of swatting. Our investigation into the initial call remains on-going."</p> <p>Miami-Dade Public Schools said that schools in its district were also subject to swatting pranks, urging parents to have a discussion with their kids about the illegal activity.</p> <p>"We have a ZERO-TOLERANCE policy for this type of activity. A prank threat against a school is deemed a federal crime that can lead to arrest & a felony record," the school district tweeted. "Parents, speak to your children about the life-long consequences."</p>

	<p>In 2019, a man was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison for making a prank call to Wichita, Kansas, police, resulting in officers going to a home and fatally shooting 28-year-old Andrew Finch, a father of two, in December 2017.</p> <p>Last month, over a dozen states, including Florida, reported incidents of hoax calls to 911 about active shooters in schools, resulting in the FBI's involvement.</p> <p>The FBI has warned about the practice, saying it's a federal crime.</p> <p>"The FBI takes swatting seriously because it puts innocent people at risk," the FBI told ABC News last month, adding that it will investigate every threat.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/11 SC councilman, family members shot, killed
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/south-carolina-councilman-family-members-shot-killed/story?id=91349437
GIST	<p>A man in South Carolina was arrested for allegedly shooting and killing three family members, including a local councilman, the Horry County Police Department said.</p> <p>Police arrested Matthew Allen DeWitt, 25, on Monday regarding the triple shooting.</p> <p>The suspect was charged with murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime, online arrest records show.</p> <p>Horry police arrived at a home near Conway, South Carolina, on Sunday afternoon to investigate a death where they discovered the body of 52-year-old Natasha Stevens.</p> <p>Later that evening, police conducted a welfare check outside of Columbia, South Carolina, where they found two people with “apparent gunshot wounds,” the Horry Police Department said on Facebook.</p> <p>Police identified the two people as Gloria DeWitt, 52, and James DeWitt, II, 52.</p> <p>According to the Town of Atlantic Beach website, James “Jim” DeWitt II served as a councilman for the Atlantic Beach community.</p> <p>Atlantic Beach did not respond to a request for comment.</p> <p>According to its website, the predominately Black town is known as the “Black Pearl” and was a refuge for African Americans in the area who faced discrimination in the 1930s.</p>
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